MONDAY
June 1, 2026

BENGALURU
CITY EDITION
20 Pages ₹ 6.00

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RCB
ROYAL CHALLENGERS BENGALURU

OFFICIAL TEAM KIT PARTNER

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5 killed in road accident near Bagepalli

CHICKBALLAPUR
Five persons, including four women, were killed and more than 10 others sustained serious injuries in a road accident on the outskirts of Bagepalli town. » PAGE 2

GBA polls likely to be held before August 31

BENGALURU
With the elevation of D.K. Shivakumar as Chief Minister, the much delayed civic polls in Bengaluru will likely be held within the new August 31 deadline set by the Supreme Court, sources said. » PAGE 3

EDUCATIONPLUS
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Vulnerabilities in marking platform 'contained': CBSE

Board says it is 'closely monitoring the vulnerabilities' in its On-Screen Marking system; 'other exploitable weaknesses are being ruled out'; it thanks people for pointing out issues in its IT infra

Maitri Porecha
NEW DELHI

After public posts by ethical hackers exposed vulnerabilities in the On-Screen Marking platform OnMark for Class 12 answer sheets, the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) on Sunday said the identified vulnerabilities "have been contained and other exploitable weaknesses are being ruled out".

The CBSE said it was "grateful" to alert citizens for pointing out "such weaknesses".

"We have been closely monitoring the vulnerabilities in the OnMark portal of our service provider that are being flagged in the public domain. An expert team of cybersecurity professionals has been deployed over the last few days from across various arms of the government as well as the IITs [Indian Institutes of Technology] to fortify these systems, including taking them over to a more secure set-up," the CBSE said in an official statement on X. "The identified vulnerabilities have been contained, and other exploitable weaknesses are being ruled out."

The Board's statement comes after 19-year-old ethical hacker Nisarga Adhikary said he had hacked its digital evaluation ecosystem. Parents and students had raised concern regarding the evaluation process and glitches in its portal.

Speaking with *The Hindu*, Mr. Adhikary said he felt "happy and satisfied" that the CBSE had finally acknowledged the vulnerabilities in its ecosystem.

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Students' cause: NSUI president Vinod Jakhar during a protest at the CBSE headquarters in New Delhi. ANI

Rahul slams govt., CBSE over OSM controversy

NEW DELHI
Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Sunday sharpened his attack on the Centre and the CBSE over the OSM issue, describing it as a 'fraud' and alleging that changes in tender conditions had enabled irregularities in the scanning of answer sheets. » PAGE 9

Shivakumar, Siddaramaiah to take Cabinet talks to Delhi

Sharath S. Srivatsa
Kumar Buradikatti
BENGALURU/ KALABURAGI

Amid hectic parleys in Karnataka for Cabinet berths ahead of the swearing-in of D.K. Shivakumar as Chief Minister on Wednesday, deliberations are set to shift to Delhi with both Mr. Shivakumar and outgoing Chief Minister Siddaramaiah expected to meet Congress central leadership on Monday and inform it of their choices.

Mr. Shivakumar, who was unanimously elected leader of the Congress Legislature Party on Saturday, told presspersons on Sunday that the party high command will be taking a call on the contours of Cabinet formation.

All India Congress Committee president Mallikarjun Kharge on Sunday said the Cabinet formation will be done in phases and not in a single stroke. "Plan is to induct Ministers in a phased manner, completing one stage now, and then perhaps taking a gap of 15 days to a month before finalising the next batch of Ministers. This is the thought process for now," Mr. Kharge told presspersons in Kalaburagi.

On Sunday, the residence of Mr. Shivakumar saw a steady stream of legislators and other leaders arriving to congratulate the Chief Minister-designate. Nearly a dozen Ministers in the Cabinet of Mr. Siddaramaiah visited Mr. Shivakumar, sources said. Ministers in the Siddaramaiah Cabinet who met the CLP leader included Dinesh Gundurao, Madhu Bangarappa, H.K. Patil, Santhosh Lad, and Mankal Vaidya.

"The legislators not only congratulated him, but also subtly provided indications of their interest to be in his Cabinet," said sources close to Mr. Shivakumar.

Chief Minister-designate D.K. Shivakumar with current Education Minister Madhu Bangarappa in Bengaluru on Sunday. ANI

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Reign continues

Chase master: Virat Kohli's unbeaten 75 guided Royal Challengers Bengaluru to a second straight IPL title in Ahmedabad on Sunday. Chasing a target of 156 set by Gujarat Titans, the Rajat Patidar-led side cruised to a five-wicket victory. K.R. DEEPAK (REPORT: PAGE 13)

Enumeration for Phase 3 of SIR begins in Odisha, Mizoram, Sikkim, Manipur

Sreeparna Chakrabarty
NEW DELHI

The enumeration phase of the special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls has started in Odisha, Mizoram, Sikkim, and Manipur as announced by the Election Commission(EC). All eligible electors whose enumeration forms are received by the Electoral Registration Officer on or before June 28 will be included on the draft electoral rolls.

The EC, which has completed the SIR in 10 States and three Union Territories in two phases and a special revision in Assam, announced the third round of the SIR on May 14. The third phase of the exercise will be carried out in a staggered manner in 16 States and three Union Territories – Delhi, Odisha, Mizoram, Sikkim, Manipur, Uttarakhand, Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Haryana, Chandigarh, Telangana, Punjab, Karnataka, Meghalaya, Maharashtra, Jharkhand, Nagaland, Tripura, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu – which have a combined voter base of 36.73 crore.

The EC had said the enumeration phase would start in Odisha, Mizoram, Sikkim, and Manipur on May 30 and continue till June 28. Voters who are unable to submit their enumeration forms by that date may apply through Form 6 – meant for the inclusion of new voters – along with the prescribed declaration form, during the claims and objections period.

The poll body said on Sunday that the main objective of the SIR was to ensure that "no eligible citizen is left out while no ineligible person is included on the electoral roll". "Every person who is a citizen of India and who is not less than eighteen years of age on the qualifying date and is not otherwise disqualified under any law shall be entitled to be registered on the electoral roll," it said in a statement.

Former Odisha CM and Biju Janata Dal chief Naveen Patnaik signs the enumeration form for the SIR in Bhubaneswar. PTI

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Women to get smart card for seamless travel in buses, metro

Darshan Devaiah B.P.
BENGALURU

Women commuters in Bengaluru may soon be able to use a single smart card for both free bus travel and Namma Metro journeys, with the State government planning to introduce a Shakti Scheme smart card integrated with the National Common Mobility Card (NCMC) system.

The proposed initiative aims to simplify public transport for women by enabling seamless travel across multiple modes of transport using a single card. While the card will continue to provide free travel benefits under the Shakti scheme on Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) buses and services operated by other State-run transport corporations, it will also function as a rechargeable payment card for Namma Metro services.

Officials said that the new card is being designed on the NCMC platform, a nationwide standard that allows commuters to access various public transport systems through a single smart card.

Under the proposed framework, eligible women can obtain the card free of cost by submitting an application through online or offline channels. The government is planning to facilitate registration through citizen service centres and digital platforms.

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How the smart card will work

- Free card for eligible women beneficiaries
- e-KYC verification before issuing card
- Free travel on State-run buses continues
- Recharge card to pay for Metro fare
- Tap/swipe card for instant ticket validation

Nepal PM sparks row, says his country has encroached upon Indian territory

Sanjeev Satgainya
KATHMANDU

Nepal Prime Minister Balendra Shah said on Sunday that his country too had encroached upon Indian territory, in what is considered to be the first such public statement by a head of government of the neighbouring country.

Mr. Shah was responding to a question by a lawmaker in Parliament regarding the Kalapani region, which remains disputed between Nepal and India. "You might find it strange, but I also learned only recently – after becoming Prime Minister – that it is not just India but Nepal too has encroached upon Indian territories in many places," Mr. Shah said, prompting an uproar in Parliament as the Opposition objected to the statement.

Nepal and India have a long-pending boundary dispute over Lipulekh, Limpiyadhura, and Kalapani and the dispute resurfaced recently when India announced the revival of the Kailash Manasarovar Yatra pilgrimage via the Lipulekh route. Nepal then sent diplomatic notes to both India and China. India maintains that the territories are part of Uttarakhand.

Lawmakers from the Nepali Congress and the Nepali Communist Party demanded that the Prime Minister clarify where exactly Nepal has encroached upon Indian territory and sought the removal of his remarks from the record. "The Prime Minister said Nepal has encroached upon Indian territory," Nepali Congress Chief Whip Basana Thapa said. "Where exactly has this happened? The Prime Minister must make the House aware of this. This is a serious and objectionable statement."

> You might find it strange, but I also learned only recently – after becoming Prime Minister – that it is not just India but Nepal too has encroached upon Indian territories in many places
>
> **BALENDRA SHAH**
> Nepal Prime Minister

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Three held during bid to cross into Pak.: Army

The Hindu Bureau
SRINAGAR

Three people were arrested near the Line of Control in Kashmir's Baramulla district on Sunday while trying to cross into Pakistan. An Army spokesperson said two local youth and their guide – a former Territorial Army jawan – were trying to exfiltrate from the Uri sector into Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK). In a separate operation, the Army also arrested a PoK intruder who was crossing the LoC in the Uri sector.

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M BG-BGE

Tejaswin — a battler who embraces tough tests

Having become the first Indian to cross 8,000 points in decathlon, the 27-year-old is eyeing bigger things; he is open to the idea of competing in multiple events at the Glasgow Commonwealth Games

Y.B. Sarangi

Tejaswin Shankar, the National record holder in high jump and decathlon, loves to break barriers, especially the tougher ones. When he ruled the high jump scene in India, he chose to switch to the much tougher decathlon and put himself through harder tests.

After becoming the first Indian to cross 8,000 points (8,057) in decathlon in the Federation athletics meet at the Birsa Munda Stadium (Morabadi) in Ranchi, Tejaswin – an Asian Games silver medallist in decathlon and a high jump bronze winner at the Commonwealth Games – was relieved.

What made it possible

Four personal bests (in 100m, long jump, 400m and 1500m) were achieved, courtesy a combination of factors – his sound knowledge of the disciplines, meticulous planning, hard work and support system. "The 8,000-point barrier is officially broken. No more worrying about wind or asterisks. I was very happy to achieve it because I had two chances this season. In heptathlon, I did 5,997, and that stung. Before that, my best was around 5,657. I knew I was in shape for 6,000. When you're that close, it hurts more," Tejaswin said.

"Same thing happened three-four months later at my first decathlon event [of the season] in San Angelo. I had an explosive day one again. On the second day, I had breakthroughs in pole vault. Then in 1500m, all I needed was 4:40 to break the 8,000-point mark. I ran 4:51; I had never run that slow. The weather was tough (challenging), but that's not an excuse. You train to handle any situation. I missed 8,000 by 53 points. I told myself 'next time, no matter how far behind I am, I'll cover it'."

A friendly taunt from his wife Siddhi Hiray motivated Tejaswin. In Ranchi, he targeted a time of 4:37 in 1500m to get to 8,000 points, but he managed to clock 4:29 to reach where he was longing for.

Tejaswin understands his game well. "Everyone's a different beast. Everyone has their own way. I made 8,000 in one way, someone else made it differently. Some have even scores across the board. Not many do 2.25m in high jump (in decathlon), and no one does 40m in javelin and still scores 8,000. It's a weird balance. Everyone has their strengths and weaknesses. I play to mine: build a massive score on day one, and then do damage control on day two. As I improve in those events, I can score more."

Double delight

The 27-year-old, who recorded 2.25m during decathlon to breach the qualifying mark in high jump, felt that he could improve in his pet discipline. He also made the cut in decathlon.

"I think so. It has been a breakthrough year for me in high jump. In my first competition (in January), I did 2.26m. Then, it was 2.23m at Asian Indoors. Here (under pressure with lights going off and the competition stretching for three hours), I did 2.25m. My average is really good. Surprisingly, it's better than my performance in the last Olympics year when I was fully prepared for high jump. That stings more."

So, does he wish to compete in both high jump and decathlon at the Glasgow Commonwealth Games? "I don't know the full schedule. I know that decathlon is on July 30 and 31. High jump is also there, but I don't know the order. Based on what I did here, I think I can do it. But if high jump is scheduled right after decathlon and I'm not running 400m, I might try."

Support system's role

Tejaswin underlined the importance of a robust support system – which includes his wife, sister Avantika and strength and conditioning coach Wayne Lombard – and stressed that it helped him succeed in an arduous event like decathlon.

"With 10 events, it's a mental battle. You're competing for two consecutive days, you're emotionally up and down. Right now, I can sit and talk comfortably, but they know how much grief I've given them over the last two days. You need a support system that understands [your situation]. I'm not justifying being mean, but you need people who push you in the right direction, ensure that you in the right headspace and help with everything you need," Tejaswin said.

"I scored 8,000 points, but without those people – Wayne helping with nutrition between/after/before events, Siddhi yelling splits, my sister shouting '*Chalo bhaiya*' – it wouldn't have been possible. Those things distract you in crucial moments because you get caught in your own emotions.

"At such times, you need people to distract you. You prepare all year, but if your mind takes over, it's a problem. You want muscle memory to happen. They keep telling me that I have it in me. I just have to execute – make that 4.20m bar, run 4:29 to achieve the big goal."

Looking at the bigger picture

While enjoying his moment of glory in Ranchi, Tejaswin kept an eye on two athletes – sprinters Gurindervir Singh and Vishal T.K., who became the first Indians to go below 10.10 and 45 seconds in 100m and 400m respectively and made it a memorable day for athletics lovers. He looked at the bigger picture of India producing more world-class athletes.

"It's a Commonwealth Games year, and people delivered their best in tough conditions. What happened with Animesh Kujur and Gurindervir going back to back (lowering the 100m National record in the semifinals), and Gurindervir dominating (the final) was phenomenal. In decathlon, I got 8,000, while N. Thowfeeq was right at 7,530, which would've been enough for the bronze medal at the last Commonwealth Games. He'll learn," Tejaswin said.

"Now, it's on me to push the barrier. If I don't, in two Federation Cups, Thowfeeq will be at 8,000. That's how sport grows. You always want one or two people to push the envelope. Neeraj Chopra is the best example – he scored 90m. Now there are eight-nine javelin throwers with 80-85-86m.

"There are good things happening. It's about harnessing this talent and taking it to the next level. The good athletes get opportunities and extra support. This year, I was supposed to compete in one or two competitions as per rules, but I was allowed to do decathlon. Such exemptions are necessary.

"They didn't push me to compete in an event. That would have been a waste of energy. I know that I have to do a trial at the Federation meet, but doing one high jump meet just to hit the standard is too much. Others also got exemptions. I am happy that things have progressed," Tejaswin explained.

He signed off with a lot of optimism as the country looks forward to putting up better performances at the Commonwealth Games and Asian Games this year as well as the Los Angeles Olympics in 2028.

Hungry for more: Tejaswin doesn't want to rest on his laurels and is keen to raise the bar. RITU RAJ KONWAR

THE GIST

- Four personal bests (in 100m, long jump, 400m and 1500m) were achieved at the Federation meet in Ranchi, courtesy a combination of factors
- The 27-year-old recorded 2.25m during decathlon to breach the qualifying mark in high jump. He also made the cut in decathlon
- While enjoying his moment of glory, Tejaswin was all praise for sprinters Gurindervir and Vishal

Tejaswin is an Asian Games silver medallist in decathlon and a high jump bronze winner in the CWG

2 BACK

PUMA

RCB ROYAL CHALLENGERS BENGALURU

OFFICIAL TEAM KIT PARTNER

CMYK J BG-BGE

5 killed, at least 10 injured in accident near Bagepalli

The incident occurred when the victims were returning home in an autorickshaw after completing their day's work

The Hindu Bureau
CHICKBALLAPUR

As many as five people, including four women, were killed and more than 10 others sustained serious injuries in a road accident on National Highway 44 near Gangotri Petrol Bunk on the outskirts of Bagepalli town in Chickballapur district on Sunday.

The incident occurred when the victims were returning home in an autorickshaw after completing their day's work. They were daily-wage labourers.

According to the police, the accident involved an SUV, an autorickshaw and a canter.

Preliminary investigations suggest that the SUV allegedly travelling at high speed, rammed the autorickshaw from behind. The impact caused the autorickshaw to lose control and crash into a canter moving ahead, triggering a devastating collision. The force of the crash completely crushed the autorickshaw, killing five occupants on the spot. The victims have been identified as Umadevi, 55, Vijaya, 40, Lakshmamma, 50, Sarojamma and autorickshaw driver Anjinappa, 35. All were residents of Bagepalli town. More than 10 others sustained serious injuries and were rushed to nearby hospitals. Several of the injured are reported to be in critical condition.

The mangled front portion of the autorickshaw that was involved in the accident occurred on the outskirts of Bagepalli town in Chickballapur district on Sunday.

The victims have been identified as Umadevi, Vijaya, Lakshmamma, Sarojamma and driver Anjinappa

Superintendent of Police of Chickballapur Kushal Chowksey visited the spot and reviewed the situation. The police conducted an inspection.

A case has been registered at the Bagepalli Police Station, and authorities are investigating the exact circumstances that led to the fatal accident.

Fans cheering during the Indian Premier League 2026 final T20 cricket match between Royal Challengers Bengaluru and Gujarat Titans, in Bengaluru on Sunday. SUDHAKARA JAIN

Political leaders hail victorious RCB

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

As the Royal Challengers Bengaluru won the IPL Championship trophy for the second time, congratulatory messages poured in from different quarters, including prominent politicians of Karnataka.

In his congratulatory message, caretaker Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said: "Congratulations to our RCB on lifting the trophy for the second consecutive time. This victory, earned through a united team effort, has created a festive atmosphere in the homes of RCB fans everywhere. Throughout the tournament, the fearless brand of cricket displayed by the RCB boys seemed to leave opposing teams with no answers." Mr. Siddaramaiah sought to remind the fans about safety and precautionary measures enforced in the State now following the unfortunate episode of stampede during the victory celebrations last year.

Chief Minister-designate D.K. Shivakumar said: "RCB has created history by clinching a second consecutive IPL title. With grit, composure, and the heart of true champions, the team has once again made Bengaluru proud. Congratulations to the players, coaches, support staff, and millions of fans who stood by the team."

Union Minister H. D. Kumaraswamy said: "From commanding performances to moments of brilliance under pressure, this title was built on consistency, character and an unrelenting will to win. Special applause to Virat Kohli, whose bat once again spoke with authority throughout the tournament."

SC judge visits central prison, launches mental health initiatives, skill development

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Justice Vikram Nath of the Supreme Court and executive chairman of the National Legal Services Authority (NSLA) visited the Bengaluru Central Prison at Parappana Agrahara on Sunday and inaugurated several initiatives aimed at improving rehabilitation, skill development and mental healthcare services for inmates.

Justice Nath was accompanied by Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru of the Karnataka High Court and patron-in-chief of the Karnataka State Legal Services Authority (KSLSA), justice Anu Sivaraman, executive chairperson of KSLSA, and other senior judicial and legal services officials.

They first visited the prison's Legal Services Centre and reviewed the legal-aid and welfare measures being provided to inmates. They later inaugurated a computer laboratory sponsored by R.V. College of Engineering, Bengaluru, under the theme "Cells to Skills", a programme designed to equip prisoners with digital and vocational skills to support their rehabilitation and reintegration into society. The delegation also visited the prison hospital's De-Addiction Centre, where they were briefed by medical officers on the treatment and counselling facilities available for inmates struggling with substance abuse.

Supreme Court judge Vikram Nath during his visit to Bengaluru Central Prison at Parappana Agrahara in Bengaluru on Sunday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

New facility

In a significant step towards improving mental healthcare within prisons, they inaugurated a Tele-MANAS facility in the women's prison wing. The service will provide inmates with access to mental health counselling and treatment through trained professionals and specialists via telecommunication platforms. The visiting judges interacted with women inmates and inspected the prison's recently established creche facility, which caters to children residing with incarcerated mothers. They also held discussions with inmates, legal-aid beneficiaries, prison officials and representatives of the District Legal Services Authority regarding access to legal assistance and prisoner welfare programmes.

Several senior judicial officers, legal services officials and prison authorities attended the event. The programme was presided over by Alok Kumar, Director-General of Police, Prisons and Correctional Services, Karnataka.

The initiatives are expected to strengthen rehabilitation efforts and enhance the overall welfare of inmates in the State's prison system.

FIR against man for facilitating transfer of cyber scam funds through bank account

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Whitefield Cyber Crime Police have registered a case against a private firm employee for allegedly providing his bank account and related banking facilities to cyber fraudsters, enabling them to route proceeds from online scams.

According to the complaint filed by sub-inspector Manjunath B.P. on Friday, an investigation into suspicious financial transactions revealed that a private bank account had been used to receive funds linked to multiple cyber-fraud cases.

Probe revealed that cybercrime cases linked to the bank account had been registered in various places, including Bengaluru South Cyber Crime Police Station, South East Cyber Crime Police Station, Avalahalli Police Station, Kerala, Palakkad, Kozhikode Rural, Kolhapur in Maharashtra, Ramanathapuram, Delhi, Pune, Raichur and other locations.

Mule account

It was further found that the bank account was being used as a "money mule account" to receive and route funds obtained through cyber fraud. The account holder had allegedly provided banking facilities to cybercriminals, facilitating the transfer of proceeds from online scam activities.

The police identified the account holder as Murali G. Reddygopal, 37, a resident of Murthinagar Cross, Bengaluru. Investigators suspect that he knowingly provided his bank account, ATM card, mobile number, and internet banking credentials to cybercriminals for illegal transactions.

Debit freeze

The probe found that money obtained through cyber fraud was deposited into the account and subsequently transferred to other bank accounts or withdrawn as cash through ATMs. Officials further stated that the account had already been subjected to debit freeze and lien marking due to its suspected involvement in cybercrime-related activities.

Based on the findings, the Whitefield Cyber Crime Police registered a case against the accused under Sections 66(C) and 66(D) of the Information Technology Act, 2000, and Sections 319(2) and 318(4) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023.

Further investigation is under way to ascertain the extent of the involvement of the accused and identify other persons connected to the fraud network.

'Nexbax AI Index' to redefine AI adoption in India

Rashmi Patil
BENGALURU

A group of researchers have come up with the 'Next-Billion AI Index: The compass for AI utility and adoption in the global majority'.

The new study challenges the global AI industry's obsession with benchmark rankings with its new framwork Next Billion AI Index Framework (Nexbax AI Index).

It argues that the metrics dominating AI development in the world are essentially useless for the billion-plus users across India and the Global South.

The Nexbax AI index is developed by Ambrish Rawat, Kush R. Varshney and Jessica He from IBM research, Subhabrata Majumdar from Indian Institute of Management Bangalore (IIMB), Claudio Pinhanez from University of Sao Paulo, Yann Le Beux from YUX Design, Satyapriya Krishna from Harvard University, Rahul Gupta from Amazon and Rumman Chowdhury from Humane Intelligence.

Even in India's AI policy discourse, NITI Aayog increasingly recognises that readiness depends on affordability, multilingual access, and compliance-by-design.

According to the researchers, the Nexbax AI Index gives that intuition a rigorous and a measurable form. Subhabrata Majumdar, assistant professor from IIMB, said, "This framework is developed with coauthors not only from India but people spanning from across Africa, Europe, and North America. We are trying to evaluate if the existing AI systems can be deployed, trusted, and sustained under the constraints that define adoption in markets like India, because Indian market has diverse users using devices with intermittent connectivity, low-cost devices, multilingual and low-literacy users, and informal small-business workflows."

The Nexbax AI Index is developed on the basis of 10 measurable dimensions under three themes.

He said, "The project was initiated around six months ago during the India AI Summit in February 2026. The idea behind developing the framework was to guide the development of better AI systems so that these systems can solve the problems of people working at the grassroot level. For example, giving the most important health updates to ASHA workers who work in the remote villages of India where internet connectivity hasn't seeped in yet. Such AI systems or developments must be brought in India to help deal with the real world challenges."

The Nexbax AI Index is developed on the basis of 10 measurable dimensions organised under three themes: Effective Efficiency, Operational Practicality, and Societal Integrity. The 10 dimensions included cost effectiveness and price performance, resource efficiency, adaptability and customisability, interoperability, resilience, reliability and robustness, usability and automation, education and empowerment, trustworthiness and ethics, multiculturalism, inclusivity and pluralism, openness and collaboration.

Expert evaluation

The team conducted a formative expert evaluation of the first version of the index through one-hour user interviews with eleven experts (participants) working on AI technology and applications for customer usage. These 11 participants included founders of various companies' developers, and product leaders.

Prof. Majumdar explained, "Overall, the experts we interviewed felt that the index was useful for reasoning about AI utility and adoption in next-billion settings from a developer and product perspective."

Man hacks wife to death

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 45-year-old woman was hacked to death allegedly by her husband over suspicion of an extramarital affair, in Dasarahalli village of Ramanagara taluk on Sunday.

The victim has been identified as Nagamma, 45, a resident of Dasarahalli. According to the police, her husband, Kanimadayya, suspected that she was involved in a relationship with a man from the same village. The couple reportedly had frequent quarrels over the issue. On Sunday morning, an argument broke out between them and escalated, following which the husband allegedly attacked his wife with a machete. She sustained severe injuries and died on the spot due to excessive bleeding.

Upon receiving information, the police personnel from the Ramanagara Rural Police Station rushed to the spot, conducted an inspection, and registered a case. The accused has been arrested and further investigation is under way.

The victim's body has been sent for post-mortem examination.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are hereby notified that my client intends to purchase the schedule property described in the schedule given below from its owner's **Sri. Venkatesh Thimmanna** S/o Thimmanna and **Smt. Lalitha Venkatesh** W/o Venkatesh, both are residing at. No.5/112, Nallur, Hosur Taluk, Krishnagiri District, Tamil Nadu-635103. Any person/s having any interest, claim/s or objection/s to the sale of the schedule property by the aforesaid persons to my client may lodge the objection/claim with the under signed with in a period of **15 days** from the date of this publication.

In the absence of any such claim/s or objection/s with relevant records with in the stipulated period it will be deemed that there is/are no objection/s or claim/s on the said property and my client would proceed to complete sale transaction.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the residential converted Vacant Site No.14, Janjur No.1341, Old Property **No.1314/800/14, Assessment No.1543/800/14,** Property No.800/14, Presently have its TMC E-Katha/Property **No.2713017884,** Measuring: East to West: On Northern Side:33 Feet on Southern Side:27 Feet and North to South: 60 Feet, in all totally measuring 1800 SFT (167.225 Square Meters) formed in converted Sy.No.13/6, situated at Ward No.20, Iggaluru Village, presently come within the limits of Chandapura Town Municipality, Attibele Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru District and bounded on the: **East by :** Site No.51 & 52 **West by :** Land belongs to Eramma and Bhadramma **North by:** 25 Feet Road **South by :** Site No.15

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Hosur Main Road, Anekal Taluk,
Bengaluru-562107. **Cont. No.9060944344.**

Vehicles seized for dumping waste illegally

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The East Corporation has seized six vehicles allegedly involved in the illegal transportation and dumping of solid waste on vacant land and along a riverbank in the Mahadevapura zone.

An FIR has been registered at the Kadugodi Police Station. According to the East Corporation Commissioner D.S. Ramesh, certain individuals were misusing the name of an agency officially authorised to collect and dispose of bulk waste from commercial and residential complexes. Using fake identity cards, they allegedly collected waste and dumped it illegally in areas adjoining the Dakshina Pinakini river near Siddhartha Layout in the Kadugodi jurisdiction. The illegal activity came to light following complaints from local residents. The Commissioner said the corporation is following a "zero-tolerance" policy against illegal waste disposal.

Government of Punjab
Punjab Energy Development Agency

Dt: 27.05.2026

E-TENDER NOTICE NO. PEDA/2026-27/07

Punjab Energy Development Agency (PEDA) invites online bids from companies regarding to conduct detailed Energy Audits in 1875 MSMEs under RAMP scheme at various locations in the State of Punjab with scope of work as mentioned in DNIT.

Starting Date & Time for Sale of e-bid document - 01.06.2026 at 11:00 AM

Date & Time for Pre-Bid Meeting - 11.06.2026 at 11:30 AM

Closing Date & Time for Submission of e-bids - 22.06.2026 upto 3:30 PM

Date & Time for Opening of Technical e-bids - 23.06.2026 at 11:30 AM

For more details, logon to - **https://eproc.punjab.gov.in/**

Note:

1. Corrigendum/ Addendum/ Corrections, if any will be published on the above mentioned website and no separate notices shall be issued.
2. PEDA reserve the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason thereof.

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, hitherto known as SHIVANI Daughter of ASHOK KUMAR THAKUR, resident of No. 126, Westend Heights, DLF Newtown, Akshaya Nagar, Bannerghatta Road, Bengaluru, Karnataka, India – 560068; have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as SHIVANI THAKUR.

I, Anandraj Bohara Dharamchand S/O, Dharam Chand R/o No:67/68 C Street, Bsa Road Cross, Frazer Town, B'lore:560005 have changed my name to Anand Raj Bohara for all purposes.

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, SUMIT KUMAR S/o Mahesh Prasad Singh R/o B 1092 Wing–1 Sobha Palm Court Apartment Kogilu Main Road Maruthi Nagar Yelhanka Bangalore Karnataka–560064 I have changed my minor Son's name SAUBHAGYA to SAUBHAGYA SHARMA aged 16 Years.

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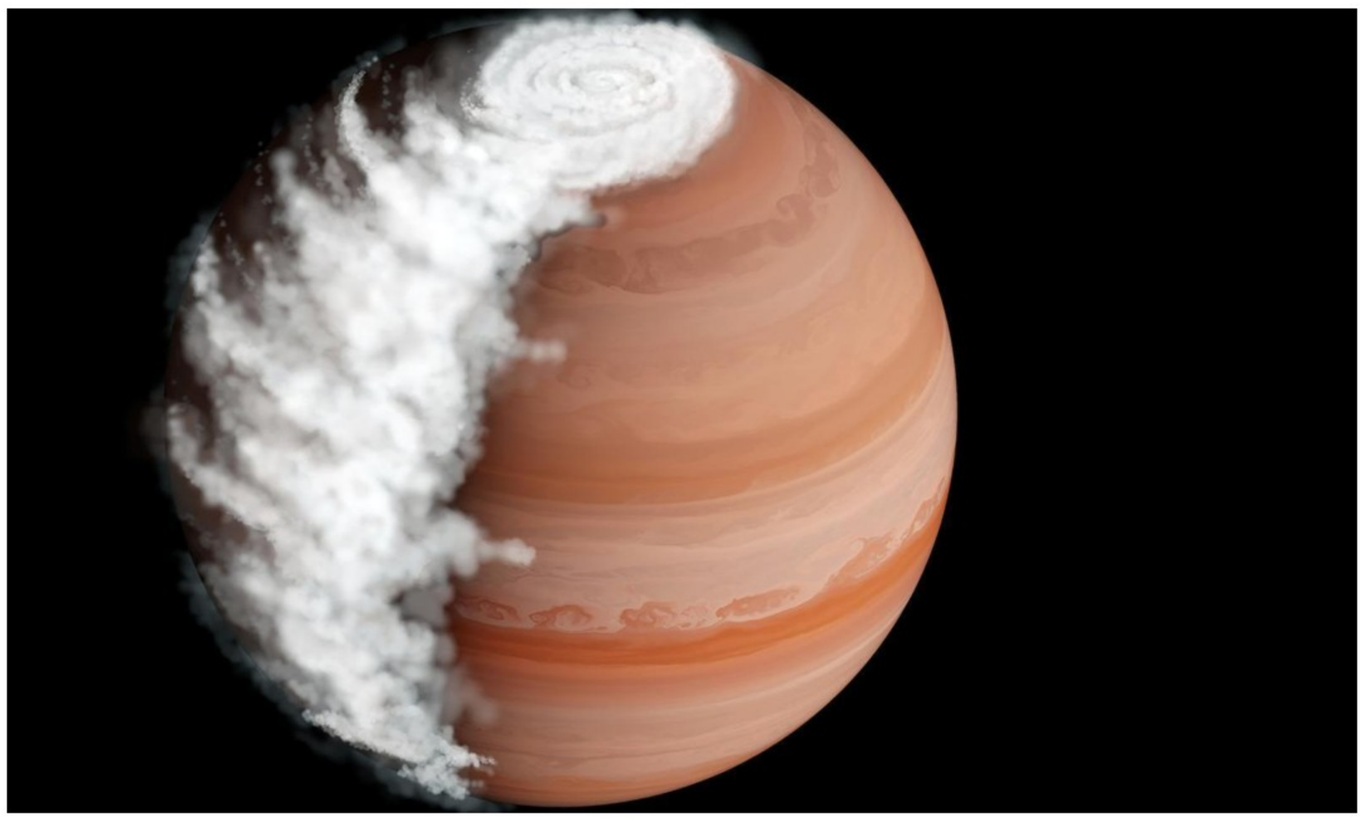
Webb telescope captures weather on exoplanet 700 lightyears away

As state-of-the-art instruments like the Extremely Large Telescope, which Europe is currently building in northern Chile, become operational, astronomers could discover many exoplanet nurseries around distant stars, increasing manifold the possibility of finding more extra-solar earth-like planets and, who knows, even a true earth twin

Prakash Chandra
KOCHI



An artistic rendering of WASP-94A b, a gas giant around 700 lightyears away. On this exoplanet, clouds build as air flows over the night side of the planet, reaching a large swell by daybreak. They dissipate on the dayside, leaving clear skies in the early evening. HANNAH ROBBINS/JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY

THE GIST

- Astronomers have always been intrigued by the bizarre weather patterns on the 6,000 or so exoplanets they have found so far
- But in the absence of a sufficiently powerful telescope, they have had no way to study these far-flung bodies
- NASA's launch of the James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) in December 2021 was the gamechanger
- The unprecedented sensitivity of its instruments — which allow the telescope to discern the details on a small coin from a distance of 50 km — has helped scientists study exoplanets' atmospheres like never before

"Cloudy with a chance of rain" – imagine astronomers turning into meteorologists and issuing weather reports like this, but for alien planets.

According to a new study published in *Science* on May 21, scientists were able to use the NASA James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) to peer closely at an exoplanet nearly 700 lightyears away, and deciphered the weather patterns on it.

Named WASP-94A b, this exoplanet is almost twice as large as Jupiter but with only half the mass. It orbits very close to its parent star – so close that it takes just four days to complete a whole revolution.

Extreme worlds

Gas giants like WASP-94A b with scorching atmospheric temperatures are called 'hot Jupiters' and have their orbits tidally locked, meaning their rotation is synchronised with their revolution. As a result, the same side of the planet always faces the host star, much like the moon's tidally locked orbit keeps one side always facing the earth.

WASP-94A b's dayside is thus a sweltering desert with temperatures hot enough to melt rock while its nightside is perennially dark and frozen as temperatures dip to nearly absolute zero.

Astronomers have always been intrigued by the bizarre weather patterns on the 6,000 or so exoplanets they have found so far. But in the absence of a sufficiently powerful telescope, they have had no way to study these far-flung bodies.

NASA's launch of the James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) in December 2021 was the gamechanger. The unprecedented sensitivity of its instruments – which allow the telescope to discern the details on a small coin from a distance of 50 km – has helped scientists study exoplanets' atmospheres like never before. Many of these worlds have turned out to be rocky; some are even almost earth-like. But on some other exoplanets, scientists have found extreme temperatures and pressures producing rain of molten metal and vaporised rock. Still others have downpours of molten glass pushed by supersonic winds. Some gaseous exoplanets even have crystallised carbon raining down as diamonds.

'A world far beyond'

Hot Jupiters though are the most studied exoplanets. The latest JWST discovery has found that WASP-94A b in particular has a dynamic weather system: its mornings are blanketed in clouds of magnesium silicate, iron, and magnesium sulphide while the evenings sport clear skies.

"The clouds appear to form on the cooler night side of the planet, sweep across the globe with extremely fast winds, and then disappear as they reach the hotter dayside," Sagnick Mukherjee, lead author of the study and a postdoctoral fellow at Arizona State University, said. "This is a direct measurement of an extreme weather cycle unfolding on a world far beyond our Solar System." Astronomers characterise the atmospheres of distant exoplanets using spectroscopy: light is split up into its various wavelengths, followed by measuring the intensity of each one. If the planet has an atmosphere, it will absorb some of the light. This will create a gap in the set of wavelengths arriving at the spectrometer. Since each molecule absorbs light of fixed wavelengths, it is easy to identify the compounds present in the atmosphere.

Slow transit

"To do that, we need some way to distinguish the planet's light from the stars," Bruce Macintosh, director of the University of California Observatories and professor of astronomy and astrophysics, said.

Prof. Macintosh, who was not part of the research team, said the astronomers used the transit method for their discovery. "As the planet passes in front of the star, its atmosphere absorbs starlight. By studying exactly how that absorption changes with time, you can see the evidence that one side is cloudy and not the other. And by studying different wavelengths you can understand composition," he explained.

According to University of Göttingen astrophysicist Lisa Nortmann, the researchers seemed to have studied the transit when the exoplanet passed slowly in front of its star.

"Therefore, at different times of observation, different parts of the planet are in front of the star. This effect was used in this study to 'scan' the planet's atmosphere at different locations and this revealed that the atmospheric signal was different for morning and evening sides," Dr. Nortmann, who was also not part of the study, said.

A major challenge in studying exoplanets, according to Dr. Mukherjee, is that clouds can obscure what their atmospheres are really made of.

"By separating the cloudy and clear sides of WASP-94A b, we show that earlier estimates of its composition can be strongly biased," he said. "More broadly, the study demonstrates that understanding weather patterns on distant worlds is essential for learning how planets across a wide range of sizes (from earth-like rocky planets to Neptune-like gas worlds and gas giants) form, evolve, and differ from planets in our own solar system."

History of formation

Research like this could help astronomers learn about the planetary architectures of 4.6 billion years ago when the protoplanetary disk of gas and dust around the Sun started evolving into this Solar System. "The discs of material around a young star form planets. Different parts of that disc have different compositions – ice, gas, dust particles, etc.," Prof. Macintosh said. By measuring the composition, you can tell something about the history of the formation (did it form out of solid material first or gas?) and even the location (did it form somewhere too hot for ice?). And then you can try and understand if the same process that made a big hot Jupiter like this could also make a smaller planet like the earth."

As state-of-the-art instruments like the Extremely Large Telescope, which Europe is currently building in northern Chile, become operational, astronomers could discover many exoplanet nurseries around distant stars, increasing manifold the possibility of finding more extra-solar earth-like planets and, who knows, even a true earth twin.

(Prakash Chandra is a science writer. prakashisat@gmail.com)

BIG SHOT

Mummy homecoming: People of the Kolla indigenous community participate in a ceremony following the return of the so-called 'Child of Chani', an Inca-era child mummy found frozen in 1905 at nearly 5,900 m on a mountain, in Jujuy province, Argentina on May 28. The mummy had been in a Buenos Aires museum for around 120 years. REUTERS

WHAT IS IT?

Padma Barrage: another barrier

Vasudevan Mukunth

Bangladesh has approved a large river engineering project called the Padma barrage, on the Padma river, which is Bangladesh's stretch of the Ganga, in Rajbari district. It is Bangladesh's attempt to partially re-engineer the hydrology of its southwest region, which has become prone to drought after decades of reduced seasonal flows linked to the Farakka barrage upstream in India.

The barrage will be 2.1-km-long and have 78 spillway gates, undersluices, navigation locks, fish passages, and associated embankments. It will impound roughly 2.9 billion cubic metres of water and includes 113 MW of hydropower generation. According to Bangladesh, the project will affect roughly 37% of the country's land area and irrigate around 2.88 million ha of farmland.

While the barrage's supporters see a long-delayed national water security project in the Padma barrage, critics have said mega-barrages often underperform, alter sediment flows in unpredictable ways, and can create new ecological problems, such as water-logging and damage to fisheries. Some environmental groups have also criticised the speed of approval and called for greater public scrutiny.

As Mehebub Sahana at the University of Manchester and Bayes Ahmed at University College London have argued, the project highlights how South Asian countries are building more barriers to rivers rather than removing them. The regional turn towards unilateral river engineering is at odds with Europe and North America tearing down obsolete dams and culverts to restore rivers' free flow. In 2025 alone, 21 European countries removed a record 603 barriers.

Boats on the Padma river in 1860. PUBLIC DOMAIN

For feedback and suggestions for 'Science', please write to **science@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Daily page'

DKS as CM may provide big push to tunnel roads, PRR, Bidadi township

It is Shivakumar who pushed through the restructuring of the city's governance and split the civic body and formed GBA

K.V. Aditya Bharadwaj
BENGALURU

D.K. Shivakumar who is all set to become Chief Minister of Karnataka has created a sense of hope and foreboding depending on who one talks to.

While some sections hope he will now give a push to big infrastructure projects in the city, those opposed to this model of development and land losers to these mega projects fear he will bulldoze through all opposition.

The PRR and Bidadi Township are coming up on the city's periphery. ALLEN EGENUSE J.

A senior official working with the Chief Minister-designate said, "The Twin Tunnel Roads, Peripheral Ring Road and Bidadi Township projects spearheaded by Mr. Shivakumar did not get financial support from the government, forcing him to raise loans. Now these projects will become a priority for the government and will get a big fillip," he said.

While Bengaluru Smart Infrastructure Ltd (BSMILE) may award the contract for tunnel roads shortly, the PRR and Bidadi township projects have been caught in the quagmire of land acquisition. While the location of the skydeck has recently been finalised, it is yet to take off.

V. Ravichandar, member of Brand Bengaluru Committee, said Mr. Shivakumar sees himself as a successor to S.M. Krishna as far as Bengaluru is concerned and will likely work on the peripheries of the city to equip it to absorb the next phase of urban expansion and industrial investments. The PRR and Bidadi Township are coming up on the city's periphery and the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) plans to develop 11 layouts along the PRR.

Apart from Namma Metro, the last big infrastructure projects in Bengaluru were the Outer Ring Road and Kempegowda International Airport, both spearheaded by Krishna. It is only under Mr. Shivakumar as Bengaluru Development Minister that big ticket infrastructure projects have been initiated, some long-pending like PRR and Bidadi Township, and some new projects like tunnel roads.

It is also Mr. Shivakumar who pushed through the restructuring of the city's governance and split the civic body into five and formed the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA), a reform pending for a decade now.

But not all are on board with this model of development, and there has been intense opposition to tunnel roads in the city and against land acquisition for multiple projects on the city's outskirts.

"Mr. Shivakumar had once said that had he been the Chief Minister, he would not have succumbed to opposition to the steel flyover project and would have gone ahead with it. This betrays an undemocratic strain. He has always advocated a very capital intensive, private transport driven development model where the poor do not find a space many times. For instance, as Bengaluru Development Minister, he has consistently taken stands against the interests of street vendors. We hope as Chief Minister, he doesn't bulldoze through any opposition to his policies, not just in Bengaluru," said activist Vinay Sreenivasa.

Farmers' leader Kodihalli Chandrashekhar said that as Chief Minister, Mr. Shivakumar should see the larger picture and stand by farmers, failing which there was no option left for them but to take to the streets.

Given the PRR and Bidadi township projects affect farmers in Bengaluru Rural and Bengaluru South districts where Mr. Shivakumar and H.D. Kumaraswamy face-off, the land acquisition for both projects are expected to become a political flashpoint through the former's tenure.

GBA polls likely to be held before August 31 deadline

K.V. Aditya Bharadwaj
BENGALURU

Civic polls in Bengaluru have been due since September 2020.

With the elevation of D.K. Shivakumar as Chief Minister, the much delayed civic polls in Bengaluru will likely be held within the new August 31 deadline set by the Supreme Court, multiple sources in the ruling Congress told *The Hindu*.

Earlier, a proposal to seek further extension of the deadline till December 31, 2026 before the apex court was being considered after the court extended the deadline from June 30 to August 31 as a "last chance". However, the government is now unlikely to approach the court again and will likely work towards the August 31 deadline now.

Civic polls in the city have been due since September 2020.

A day after the Congress high command asked Siddaramaiah to make way for Mr. Shivakumar on May 26, the latter was to return to Bengaluru and hold a meeting on the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) poll preparedness of the party along with Randeep Surjewala, All India Congress Committee (AICC) general secretary in charge of party affairs in the State. "The meeting may not have happened due to unavoidable circumstances. But it shows how Mr. Shivakumar wants to hit the road running and hold the polls before the Supreme Court deadline," a close associate of the Chief Minister-designate said.

Wary of holding polls

Sources in the Congress said that Mr. Shivakumar was wary of holding the GBA polls before he became Chief Minister, as he feared that the possibility of adverse results would undermine his claim to the top chair as he held charge of both the party and Bengaluru Development in the government. He also feared the power tussle could play out in the polls, damaging the prospects of the party. "Now that he is the Chief Minister, he wants to be done with the the GBA polls within the 'honeymoon phase' and proceed to holding zilla panchayat and taluk panchayat polls. Victories in these polls will consolidate his position as Chief Minister," a former Minister from Bengaluru said.

The only concern is about holding civic polls during monsoons, when road conditions are usually bad. However, sources said that over the next two months, the government led by Mr. Shivakumar would likely pump in money, carry out roadworks on a warfooting and go for polls.

Will DKS continue to hold Bengaluru Development portfolio?

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Will D.K. Shivakumar continue to hold the Bengaluru Development portfolio as Chief Minister? According to sources, while Mr. Shivakumar is keen to retain the portfolio, there has been strong pushback from Congress Ministers in the city. They argue Bengaluru Development needs a full-time Minister. The names of senior Ministers from the city like Ramalinga Reddy, K.J. George, who had held the ministry earlier, and Krishna Byre Gowda are doing the rounds for the post.

"His personal brand has been too tied up with Bengaluru over the past three years. He has initiated several big ticket projects, and it is to his credit that he saw through the restructuring of the city's governance into multiple corporations and the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA). He sees the upcoming GBA elections when his efforts will bear fruit. So he will try his best to keep charge of Bengaluru himself," said an activist, who has worked closely with Mr. Shivakumar over the last three years. However, a former Minister said that as Chief Minister, Mr. Shivakumar would be the chairman of GBA and continue to drive the department, even if someone else holds charge.

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UAS-B launches new UG programmes in Natural farming, Forestry and Biotechnology

Rashmi Patil
BENGALURU

For the first time in the State, the University of Agricultural Sciences Bangalore (UAS-B) has launched a new undergraduate programme, BSc in Natural farming, for the academic year 2026-27.

In addition to this, it has launched two other programmes, including BSc in Forestry and BSc in Biotechnology.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, S.V. Suresha, Vice-Chancellor, UAS-B, said, "Natural farming is the need of the hour, and a lot of students and faculty members from across the State have placed their suggestions to start this course. We also did our research regarding the job perspectives and analysed that a lot of start-ups and corporate companies are on the lookout for graduates who have studied natural farming. Currently, the undergraduate programmes that we offer are a mix of both conventional farming and natural farming."

Prof. Suresha said, "On the other hand, various research studies conducted by universities have pointed out how the use of pesticides pose a significant risk of diseases to humans, agricultural workers and the environment. It is linked to developmental delays among children and neurological damage across various age groups. In addition to this, it results in killing bees and ladybugs reducing pollination, causing soil and water contamination and more. This is where natural farming play an important role."

Prof. Suresha stated that initially, the intake of students is restricted only to 60 each for all the three programmes. "Regarding the BSc in Forestry, only two institutions in Karnataka have UG, PG and PhD programmes in forestry. It includes the College of Forestry at Ponnampet in Kodagu, affiliated to the Indian Council for Agricultural Research (ICAR) and the College of Forestry in Sirsi, affiliated to UAS in Dharwad. Most students were looking for an opportunity to study at UAS Bengaluru. This course comprises Silviculture and Agro Forestry and other concepts that teach students to blend crop cultivation, livestock management and timber production," he said.

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- Narendra Modi, Prime Minister
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BENGALURU

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RISE 05:53	SET 18:43
RISE 19:44	SET 06:18
TUESDAY, JUN. 02	
RISE 05:53	SET 18:43
RISE 20:34	SET 07:10
WEDNESDAY, JUN. 03	
RISE 05:53	SET 18:43
RISE 21:22	SET 08:02

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	34	15
Mysuru	32	22
Bengaluru	32	21

Bengaluru Today
31°C The weather will be slight warm. Spell of moderate to heavy rain and thundershower with gusty winds to occur. Night will be comfortable.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
32°C Morning will be pleasant. Day will be little warm. Night also will be pleasant. Chances of light rain and thundershower.

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THE HINDU
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Bangalore Astronomical Society featured in Mann Ki Baat

Chetan B.C.
BENGALURU

A two-decade-old Bengaluru-based non-profit volunteer group, Bangalore Astronomical Society (BAS), which promotes astronomy through regular sessions and workshops, was featured in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 134th episode of Mann Ki Baat.

Mr. Modi mentioned that the BAS organises astronomy sessions and has launched an initiative to promote astronomy in rural areas. He referred to the group while highlighting India's connection with astronomy and its links to the country's culture.

The BAS promotes astronomy through regular sessions and workshops. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

'Comes as a surprise'

Sudhash Natarajan, 51, one of the trustees of the volunteer-driven BAS, told *The Hindu* that it came as a surprise when Doordarshan contacted them to inform them about the mention in Mann Ki Baat. Mr. Natarajan said that the group has been active since 2006, when six to seven enthusiasts began discussing astronomy.

This eventually led to the formation of the whole group, which now has 35 to 40 volunteers. The group also has two other trustees, Keerthi Kiran and Vishwanath S.K. Among its most active volunteers are Pramodh S., Nandan Narasimha, and Shashi Kolar. According to Mr. Natarajan, the group conducts four different types of programmes. To develop curiosity and interest in astronomy in rural areas, they organise night-long stargazing sessions following afternoon theory classes for students. They call this programme the "Star Party".

Similarly, by identifying locations with dark skies and minimal light pollution, mostly in the Western Ghats, the group organises skywatching sessions.

Keerthi Kiran, another trustee, said that the group has organised more than 1,000 programmes so far, and there are instances of participants being inspired to pursue PhDs in the subject.

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ISSN 0971 - 751X

Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Number of child labourers rescued in Bihar

122 The Bihar government has rescued 122 child labourers in the last 10 days and registered FIRs against 60 employers during a Statewide enforcement drive aimed at eliminating child labour, officials said on Sunday. Intensive inspections and raids were conducted at 222 locations across the State between May 20 and May 30. PTI

People arrested in France after PSG victory celebrations

780 French authorities announced that 780 people were arrested when overnight celebrations of Paris Saint-Germain's Champions League victory over Arsenal were marred by violent clashes, and a road accident that killed a young man. Thousands of people poured into the streets of Paris for the match and to revel in PSG's triumph. AFP

Proposed frozen assets to be released by U.S. to Iran as per the MOU

12 in $ billion. Iranian state media reported on Saturday that a proposed memorandum of understanding with the United States included an agreement to release $12 billion in frozen assets. The report cited an "unofficial" draft of the memorandum, and a similar item carried by state TV earlier this week was dismissed by the White House as a "fabrication". AFP

Effects of booms from meteor explosion over the United States

300 in tonnes. A meteor crashing toward earth exploded over the northeastern United States on Saturday, NASA said, setting off booms that echoed over the region with a blast equivalent to 300 tonnes of TNT. The fireball broke up over northeastern Massachusetts and southeastern New Hampshire at 2:06 p.m. (1806 GMT), the agency said. AFP

Fall in domestic air travel in India in April 2026

4.2 in per cent. The latest data from aviation watchdog DGCA showed that carriers flew more than 1.38 crore passengers in April, 3.47% lower than over 1.43 crore passengers carried in April last year. Over 1.35 lakh passengers were affected by flight delays and airlines shelled out little over ₹2.41 crore towards facilitation. PTI

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The apex court rings its own chain

The Supreme Court's reliance on *suo motu* cognisance has turned a once 'rare but highly visible' jurisdiction into a recurring instrument shaped by primetime attention and media reports; while it keeps 'ringing' its own chain through televised listings and supervision, the trial courts below it continue doing the work

LETTER & SPIRIT

V. Venkatesan

In 1605, on his accession, the Mughal Emperor Jahangir fastened a chain outside his palace. Any subject denied justice by his administration could pull the chain and reach the emperor directly. The chain was, in conception, a remedy against the bureaucracy. The Indian Supreme Court is now, in its *suo motu* cognisance of individual criminal cases, the bureaucracy itself, ringing its own version of the chain. Each televised listing is the sound of the apex court calling attention to itself.

Media and motive

The latest instance is the court's *suo motu* cognisance of Twisha Sharma's death, registered under the title 'In Re Alleged Institutional Bias and Procedural Discrepancies in the Unnatural Death of a Young Girl at Her Matrimonial Home'. The title prejudges its own inquiry. Institutional bias has not been judicially established at any level. The apex court's own office report, signed by the Assistant Registrar on May 23, records the basis of registration. The case was registered, the document says, 'based on media reports and other attending circumstances'. Two days later, the same bench appealed to the media to refrain from recording statements of witnesses. A court that acts on press reports while admonishing the journalists who filed them is, at the same moment, both consumer and critic of the same source.

The ground on which the apex court arrived was not vacant. A magistrate in Bhopal had remanded the husband, a practising advocate, to seven days of police custody. The Madhya Pradesh High Court had directed a second autopsy by an AIIMS Delhi team. The Bar Council of India had suspended the husband's licence. The State government had proposed transferring the investigation to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) before the apex listing. The institutions whose bias the apex title alleges had been moving against the accused for nearly a fortnight.

Marc Galanter and Vasujith Ram put the central question to this reflex with care. Their study appears in A Qualified Hope (Cambridge University Press, 2019). Why does the response of the higher judiciary to executive or police failure take 'the form of these singular heroic interventions rather than promoting some institutional shake-up, some initiative to empower and equip courts lower in the judicial hierarchy'? Their diagnosis was unsparing. The reflex carries, they wrote, 'an echo of the disdain with which higher courts in India frequently treat the efforts of the lower judiciary'.

Easier path

Suo motu cognisance, in matters of this kind, is the easier of the two paths open to the apex court. The harder path is the slow, unspectacular work of reforming the judiciary it heads. The first requires only the bench's decision to list the matter. The second requires sustained cooperation: with the High Courts on case management and supervision under Article 235 (control over subordinate courts), with State governments on funding trial-court infrastructure, with the executive on judicial appointments, and with the National Judicial Academy on training. The asymmetry between the energies devoted to the two paths is what produces the diagnosis Galanter and Ram named.

GETTY IMAGES

Where the easier path is taken, the court chooses persuasion over compulsion. The apex bench has, in *Sahara India Real Estate Corporation v. SEBI* (2012), a five-judge Constitution Bench authority on media trial. Sahara permits a court to issue a postponement order against media publication. The test is a real and substantial risk of prejudice to the administration of justice. The order is available only where no less restrictive means will work. The doctrine is settled. In the Twisha matter, the bench had every occasion to invoke it. It chose instead to request the media not to record statements of potential witnesses. A request from the apex court carries moral weight. But it is not the legal instrument it has at hand for this very problem.

The post-2019 record is unkind to the pro-*suo-motu* case. In the R.G. Kar matter, the Supreme Court registered cognisance on August 18, 2024. Sanjay Roy had been arrested by the Kolkata Police eight days earlier. The Calcutta High Court had handed the probe to the CBI on August 13, 2024. The Sealdah trial court convicted Roy in January 2025 and sentenced him to life imprisonment. The trial judge did the work. Apex monitoring of CBI status reports did not.

Hathras is closer to the Bhopal facts and more instructive. The Lucknow bench of the Allahabad High Court registered the case *suo motu* in October 2020. The Supreme Court, after entertaining transfer petitions, handed monitoring back to the High Court within weeks. That earlier bench saw the architectural point: the High Court was already in motion, and the apex role was supervisory. In July 2024, following the Hathras Satsang stampede that claimed 121 lives, the court declined a PIL. The bench said that the High Court was equipped to deal with the case. The same principle applies in Bhopal too.

Scarce attention

Lakhimpur Kheri sharpens the matter. The apex court took cognisance in October 2021 and, in April 2022, set aside the High Court's bail order for the main accused, Ashish Mishra. It then eased him back into liberty. Interim bail came in 2023. Regular bail followed in 2024. As of early 2026, the trial court had examined only 44 of 131 witnesses. In Manipur, the *suo motu* case over the viral video from July 2023 has yet to produce a conviction. Apex supervision has not been the route to faster justice.

A second observation runs alongside. In 2019, Galanter and Ram called *suo motu* 'rare but highly visible'. The first half of that description has lapsed. What was once a residual jurisdiction is now a recurring instrument. A trigger sequence has begun to repeat. Sustained primetime attention is followed by cognisance. The Solicitor General has now confirmed the sequence in open court. Appearing for the Union in the Twisha matter, he told the bench that 'it is also because of this media intervention that a lot of progress has happened'.

The numbers since the chapter, authored by Galanter and Ram, went to press confirm the rule. The Supreme Court Observer, working from the apex court's own Case Status records, counts 35 *suo motu* matters in the five years from 2020 to 2024.

The preceding fifteen years had seen only 31 in total. The annual figures, excluding contempt, were 10 in 2020, eight in 2021, one in 2022, four in 2023, and 12 in 2024. The trend continues. In 2025, the court's numbering reached 10 civil *suo motu* writs and three criminal matters. Nine of the 10 civil matters are publicly listed. By May 25 this year, the count already stood at four civil and four criminal matters. Both totals exclude *suo motu* transfer and contempt, which exercise distinct constitutional powers. The criminal count, in particular, has risen sharply. Four months and three weeks have already exceeded the criminal count for all of 2025.

Judicial attention is a scarce resource. The National Crime Records Bureau recorded 6,450 dowry deaths in 2022, with convictions in only 11 to 17 per cent of cases. The court has the capacity to list one. The criterion of selection is, on the present record, temporal rather than legal. Galanter and Ram closed their chapter with a question. They asked whether *suo motu* was 'an instance of effective use of the scarce resource of judicial attention'. The seven years since they wrote have not produced an easier answer.

None of this is to deny the seriousness of the Twisha Sharma matter. The accused's mother is a retired judge. The husband is a lawyer. The family of the deceased has reason to fear local proximity. The constitutional response to that fear is independent investigation under judicial supervision, conducted promptly. The court, however, disposed of the matter on the first day after taking note of the "narrative" in the media that a fair investigation was being denied on account of the involvement of the judiciary.

The chain Jahangir hung was a remedy against an unaccountable bureaucracy. The apex court is now that bureaucracy. Each televised listing is the sound it makes to draw attention to a failure it has the power, and the constitutional duty, to repair. Until the harder of its two paths is walked with the energy now devoted to the easier one, the chain will keep ringing. The trial courts below it will keep doing the work.

(V. Venkatesan is a journalist and legal researcher.)

THE GIST

- The ground on which the apex court arrived was not vacant, with the magistrate, the High Court, the Bar Council of India and the State government already acting in the Twisha Sharma case.
- The harder path before the apex court is the slow, unspectacular work of reforming the judiciary through better case management, trial-court infrastructure, appointments and training.
- Judicial attention is a scarce resource, but sustained primetime attention is increasingly followed by cognisance, raising questions about the use of that attention.

Search on for new KPCC chief: Kharge

We need to evaluate good candidates and look at the right combination to make this appointment, says AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge

The Hindu Bureau
KALABURAGI/BENGALURU

With Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee president D.K. Shivakumar set to take over as the Chief Minister on Wednesday, the party is looking at multiple leaders and caste combinations to identify his successor to lead the party organisation.

All India Congress Committee president Mallikarjun Kharge told the press in Kalaburagi on Sunday that discussions are actively under way to find a successor for the State party chief's position. "Naturally, a replacement of the KPCC chief must take place now. We need to evaluate good candidates and look at the right combination to make this appointment. From the perspective of the party's future and strengthening its organisation, we need a dynamic leader," he added.

Party sources said that besides Satish Jarkiholi, who has emerged as the frontrunner in the race for the KPCC president's post, names of other leaders are also coming up for discussion. These names are cropping up as part of caste and regional combinations that are being discussed with regard to the Cabinet formation, and ultimately, the decision will be part of the power-sharing agreement between Mr. Shivakumar and outgoing Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, sources said.

Mr. Kharge said, "We have only around 24 months remaining in the current legislative term, and the incoming leader should be one who can work at a rapid pace, foster collective unity, and take everyone along. At the same time, there must be a strong team of party workers and leaders who can cooperate and work in tandem with the new chief. Weighing all these aspects, we are deliberating on the matter."

All India Congress Committee president Mallikarjun Kharge addressing the media at Kalaburagi Airport on Sunday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

It is not me, but a party worker who is becoming the Chief Minister: DKS

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

"A (Congress party) worker is becoming the Chief Minister. I am not the one becoming the Chief Minister," said D.K. Shivakumar, who is set to take oath as Chief Minister on Wednesday.

Responding to queries from presspersons in Bengaluru on the celebrations by party workers, the Chief Minister-designate said, "A party worker is becoming the Chief Minister ... a loyal party worker. I have been in the party since 1979, when I started as a student leader. They (party workers) may be happy. I will not deny it." Regarding the swearing-in ceremony at Lok Bhavan, he said, "I can understand the enthusiasm of party workers, but we have to do it (celebrations) in limits because there are other issues."

Meanwhile, as party leaders and workers are expected to meet him ahead of the swearing-in celebrations, Mr. Shivakumar said: "Nobody should garland me. I am allergic to flowers since they cause itchiness; the flowers would have come in contact with *sugandharaja*. I have prohibited flower garlands."

Yathindra Siddaramaiah, MLC and son of outgoing Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, met Mr. Shivakumar at Kumara Krupa Guest House on Sunday evening. Dr. Yathindra told presspersons that he was also a Ministerial berth aspirant, and the party high command had promised to give him a berth.

Coordination committee idea receives support

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The proposal to form a coordination committee – headed by outgoing Chief Minister Siddaramaiah to build consensus on contentious issues – received support publicly from senior Dalit Left Minister K.H. Muniyappa. It is also being pushed by some party seniors. "The committee is most important and badly required in any political party," he told presspersons in Bengaluru on Sunday. A coordination committee headed by Mr. Siddaramaiah functioned during the JD(S)-Congress government in 2018-19.

Senior ST leader Satish Jarkiholi said discussions were earlier under way on setting up the committee. "It is up to the high command to constitute it or not," he said.

DyCM: Dalit Left or Right makes it complicated

The Hindu Bureau
KALABURAGI/BENGALURU

Appointment of Deputy Chief Ministers (DyCMs) and the decision of handing over the Bengaluru Development portfolio are still being seen as vexed issues amid the discussions on Cabinet formation. "The emergence of K.H. Muniyappa, the Dalit Left leader from Kolar, in the race for the DyCM post, has made the decision complicated. Competition between the Dalit Left and Dalit Right has emerged. Unless this is resolved, the larger discussion on having multiple DyCMs will not move forward," a Congress source said.

Senior leader G. Parameshwara and Minister Priyank Kharge were already in competition for the DyCM's post in the SC quota. Sources said that Mr. Shivakumar is keen on retaining the Bengaluru Development portfolio, while his insistence has not gone down well with senior Ministers.

A delegation from Maharashtra Ekikaran Samiti meeting Maharashtra Minister Uday Samant in Belagavi on Sunday.

'Maharashtra govt. will urge State not to impose Kannada on Marathi speakers'

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

"The Maharashtra government will urge the Karnataka government not to impose Kannada on Marathi-speaking people in Karnataka," said Uday Samant, Maharashtra Minister for Industries and Marathi language, in Belagavi on Sunday.

He told a delegation of the Maharashtra Ekikaran Samiti (MES) which met him here that he will raise before the Karnataka government all issues faced by Marathi speakers in Belagavi. "The purpose of my visit is to engage in a dialogue with MES leaders and others regarding the difficulties and grievances faced by the Marathi-speaking population here. I plan to meet with Karnataka's Chief Minister and other Ministers concerned to present the issues faced by Marathi speakers in the border region," he said.

He was here to attend a function organised by the Ratnagiri Kumbi Samaj.

The Minister said that he will soon arrange a meeting of the Belagavi MES leaders with Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis and Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde.

Mr. Samant said that holding an immediate meeting is not possible due to the enforcement of the Model Code of Conduct for the Legislative Council elections in Maharashtra.

"Once the Code of Conduct ends, I will personally act as a coordinator to facilitate a meeting between the MES leaders and the Maharashtra CM and Deputy CM," he said.

The MES delegation also urged him to take steps to expedite the hearing of the Belagavi border dispute case pending before the Supreme Court. The Minister said he will convey their feelings to Mr. Fadnavis.

"It is not my intention to criticise the Karnataka government's standing in Belagavi. I want to thank the Karnataka government and Belagavi district administration for making security arrangements during my visit," he said.

CORRIDORS OF POWER

A file photo of outgoing Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, CM-designate D.K. Shivakumar, Speaker U.T. Khader, and others, during a group photo after the Budget session at the Vidhana Soudha.

Did Khader predict transition?

It appears that Legislative Assembly Speaker U.T. Khader had anticipated a leadership change in the Congress government well before anyone else did. During the Budget session in March, he organised a group photograph of all MLAs in front of the Vidhana Soudha. The move surprised many, as such photo sessions are traditionally held at the end of a government's five-year term. The photograph sparked speculation about an impending change in leadership, with some even suggesting that Mr. Khader might step down as Speaker to secure a Ministerial berth.

Mr. Khader, who has long aspired to become a Minister, is believed to have accepted the Speaker's post reluctantly in May 2023.

With a new Chief Minister expected to assume office within the next few days, speculation is growing that Mr. Khader could be inducted into the Cabinet, providing both regional and minority representation in the government.

Will shadow boxing end?

Outgoing Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and KPCC president and Chief Minister-designate D.K. Shivakumar have been engaged in a prolonged power struggle. Mr. Shivakumar often differed with Mr. Siddaramaiah on key issues, including a Cabinet reshuffle, the appointment of a new KPCC president, the proposal to appoint multiple Deputy Chief Ministers, the implementation of the Social and Educational Survey (often called caste census), and the celebration of Siddaramotsava. Both leaders pursued strategies aimed at strengthening their respective positions within the party and government, often seeking to outmanoeuvre each other.

With the party high command facilitating a smooth transition of power in the ruling Congress, many leaders hope the prolonged one-upmanship will come to an end and that governance will take centre stage under the new Chief Minister, helping accelerate the pace of development in the State.

Burden of proof

Veteran politician A.H. Vishwanath, who is facing allegations from local Congress leader Kotehundi Mahadev of assaulting him over a dispute involving the repayment of borrowed money, appears more upset with the media coverage of the episode than with the allegations themselves.

Days after reports emerged about an FIR being registered against him, the former Minister and BJP MLC used a press conference in Mysuru to vent his displeasure at the manner in which the media had publicised the charges.

When questioned about the case, Mr. Vishwanath expressed disappointment that the media had chosen to place a "senior politician and statesman" like him on the same footing as a local Congress leader who was "neither an MLA nor a Minister". More importantly, he wondered why journalists had reported the allegations without first demanding proof that he had actually borrowed money from the complainant.

"Did anyone ask him for proof that he had loaned me money? Does anyone give a loan without any proof?" he asked.

Clearly irritated by the coverage, Mr. Vishwanath declared that he no longer wished to speak to the media because reporters had failed to seek documentary evidence from the complainant before carrying the reports.

After reiterating that he had not borrowed any money from either the Congress leader or anyone else, Mr. Vishwanath posed a rhetorical question to journalists: Was the very media that had helped him grow politically now trying to finish him?

As a lawyer, Mr. Vishwanath expressed confidence that the allegations could be dealt with in court. But judging by his remarks, it was not the FIR that had annoyed him most, but the media.

Nagesh Prabhu
Laiqh A. Khan

Sitting V-C on search panel raises conflict of interest concerns, warns expert

Sathish G.T.
SHIVAMOGGA

Noted agri-economist and Karnataka State Policy and Planning Commission member T.N. Prakash Kammardi has raised serious objections to the appointment of the incumbent Vice-Chancellor of the University of Agricultural Sciences (UAS), Bengaluru, as chairman of the search committee to select the Vice-Chancellor of Keladi Shivappa Nayaka University of Agricultural and Horticultural Sciences (KSNUAHS), Shivamogga.

The Department of Agriculture, through a notification dated May 14, constituted a search committee to recommend a panel of eligible candidates for the post of Vice-Chancellor of KSNUAHS, Shivamogga. The committee is chaired by S.V. Suresh, Vice-Chancellor of UAS, Bengaluru. Its members include M. Krishnan, Vice-Chancellor of the Central University of Tamil Nadu, Neelakudi Campus, Thiruvarur; and Sita Prasad Tiwari, former Vice-Chancellor of Nanaji Deshmukh Veterinary Sciences University, Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh. The Director-General of ICAR, New Delhi, is also a member, and the Principal Secretary of the Agriculture Department serves as convener.

In a letter to the Agriculture Minister, Mr. Kammardi argued that appointing a sitting Vice-Chancellor to head such a committee raises serious questions about the credibility of the academic selection process. "While the appointment may be technically valid, it clearly runs counter to the fundamental standards of academic autonomy, ethics, and impartial governance," he said.

Agriculture economist T.N. Prakash Kammardi

Citing the UGC Regulations 2018 and the ICAR Model Act, he noted that the chairperson of a search committee should have maintained at least a 10-year distance from sister institutions and should be a nationally renowned scientist or education expert who is completely independent of the local government and university system. "In this case, the chairperson is a sitting Vice-Chancellor and, in effect, part of the administrative establishment. There is every possibility that he may have known or worked with some of the applicants, giving rise to a clear conflict of interest," he told *The Hindu*.

Mr. Kammardi observed that this was possibly the first instance in the State where a sitting Vice-Chancellor had been appointed to a search committee for another university. He said the move was likely to prompt questions in academic circles and among the public. He called upon Mr. Suresh to set a precedent by voluntarily stepping down from the role, and urged the government to reconsider its decision.

'Implement forensic financial vetting to prevent corruption in selection of V-Cs for agri varsities'

B.S. Satish Kumar
BENGALURU

Expressing concern that appointments to leadership positions in agricultural and allied universities are becoming vulnerable to political lobbying and monetary influence, about 40 prominent alumni of the University of Agricultural Sciences (UAS), Bengaluru, have petitioned Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot seeking implementation of a "forensic financial vetting system" and other measures to bring transparency in the selection of vice-chancellors for universities.

"There is an increasing concern that appointments to leadership positions in universities are becoming vulnerable to political lobbying, monetary influence, favouritism, and other extra-academic considerations that undermine merit, institutional credibility, and public trust," said the petition, signed by T.N. Prakash Kammardi, noted agri-economist and former chairperson of Karnataka Agricultural Prices Commission, and well-known environmentalist A.N. Yellappa Reddy, among others.

"If left unchecked, these factors risk reducing a sacred academic selection to an exercise in opaque manipulation that compromises the process at its very inception – specifically at the stage of the Search-cum-Selection Committee," the petition said.

They suggested inclusion of a clause which would mandate that all proposed search committee members publicly disclose their qualifications and sign a legally binding declaration clearing them of any professional or personal association with applicants over the past five years. They also demanded that the government nominee in such a committee be an eminent agricultural scientist of national standing from outside Karnataka, entirely free of local institutional or State government linkages.

Thaawarchand Gehlot

They further suggested that a specialised investigative process must be instituted to audit the banking transactions of all shortlisted candidates, their spouses, and immediate dependents.

"This must include forensic scrutiny of any sudden liquidation or alienation of high-value moveable or immovable assets (including property, bullion, or high-value investments) executed within the 12 months preceding the selection process to detect and eliminate corrupt monetisation," they said.

A confidential whistleblower mechanism may be established to enable reporting of credible information relating to lobbying, monetary influence, or other unethical practices connected with the selection process, they suggested.

Maintaining that the existing Universities of Agricultural Sciences Act was outdated and structurally unequipped to counter contemporary forms of institutional corruption, they demanded an immediate legislative amendment to take care of the lacunae.

They further suggested that the selection must have a strictly quantifiable evaluation matrix covering verified academic milestones, high-impact peer-reviewed publications, and farmer-oriented field innovations.

To ensure transparency, they demanded that after finalisation of the appointment, the committee's proceedings, score sheets, and final recommendations must be preserved and made fully accessible under the Right to Information (RTI) Act.

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Online tenders are hereby invited from interested and eligible bidders for "Design, Supply, Installation and Commissioning of 2KW, 5KW and 10KW on-grid Solar Roof Top PV power plants for an aggregated capacity of 46705 KW for 9937 Nos. Schools with Topcon solar modules with Normal structure with RMS in 33 Districts with 5 years' comprehensive maintenance in the State of Telangana". Interested bidders can download the bids online from **30.05.2026** and submit the same, from **07.06.2026 to 22.06.2026 till 05:00PM** through **https://www.tender.telangana.gov.in** For further details, please visit our website: **https://tgredco.telangana.gov.in**

Date: 30.05.2026 **Sd/- VC & MD, TGREDCO**

DIPR R.O.No.3337-PP/CL/ADVT/2026-27 Dt.30.05.2026

CACHE

Many writers want to hide their reliance on AI models for reputational reasons. REUTERS

From students to authors, users turn to AI detectors despite questions over accuracy

AI text detectors are used to identify AI-generated writing, but concerns persist over their accuracy as they can produce false positives and false negatives; cases involving authors accused of using AI have triggered debate over whether these tools are reliable enough to determine authenticity

Sahana Venugopal

The story so far:

Since OpenAI's ChatGPT debuted in 2022, users have been experimenting with AI to write and publish human-sounding content at scale. According to a May 2026 report by digital consulting firm Graphite, the number of "primarily AI-generated" articles published on the internet equals the number written by humans.

While the research methodology is debatable, its findings point to a growing need for transparency in authorship as readers want to know whether government circulars, work emails, social media captions, academic papers, text messages, news articles, and even books were written by humans or chatbots.

AI-detection toolmakers claim their products are dependable and that readers who want to know whether something was written using AI or not can use them to confirm the authenticity of content. But how accurate are these tools in spotting AI generated text?

How are AI text detectors used?

Popular AI text detection tools are easy to access online, catering to a wide variety of users such as students, educators, social media managers, business experts, and content creators.

They tout high accuracy rates and training standards. Some of these platforms offer free trials or limited checks where the user can paste a short text passage and have it analysed for signs of AI-generated or AI-assisted content. In order to evaluate longer drafts or get help in editing AI text, users will have to sign up for a paid plan.

Multiple AI text detectors also offer plagiarism checking features, or "humanisers" that claim to make AI-generated content look more natural, so as to evade detection by other AI text detectors.

As frontier AI models from companies such as OpenAI, Google, and Anthropic continue to mature and produce more human-sounding text with fewer machine-generated "tells," these AI text detection tools must evolve in tandem or risk throwing out inaccurate results.

Some popular AI text detection tools include Pangram, Quillbot, ZeroGPT, Grammarly, and Turnitin.

Can AI text detectors be trusted?

This is the billion-dollar question – literally speaking. As Generative AI tools become accessible to just about anyone with an internet connection, people worldwide are looking for ways to detect AI-generated writing. Meanwhile, many writers want to hide their reliance on AI models for reputational reasons.

AI text detectors are still prone to producing false negatives, where they classify AI-generated work as being human-made, or false positives, where they classify original human work as being partially or wholly AI-generated. The latter is an urgent problem, as it can lead to disciplinary action being taken against students and academics, even if they developed their work through honest means. False positives can also lead to social media trolling and career-impacting consequences.

Turnitin, in particular, has seen several such cases and admitted to the potential for false positives. The company noted that it was a "powerful tool" but "not infallible."

More worryingly, the company's website noted that "literary flair or a scholarly voice that strays from the norm can throw Turnitin for a loop," leading to confusion when assessing the uniqueness of writing.

When *The Hindu* ran 186 words of a 2010 Pulitzer prize-winning foreign journalism feature through several trending AI detection platforms, the results varied wildly: Pangram and Quillbot both classified the text as being 100% human written, while ZeroGPT said that it was 49.9% AI.

Pangram is often cited as a trusted AI text detector on social media; it claims to detect AI-generated content with 99.98% accuracy, and stated it was reviewed positively by third parties including the University of Maryland and the University of Chicago.

Pangram's popularity is also due to efforts by CEO and co-founder Max Spero, who actively promotes the tool on X (formerly Twitter) and cites its results to claim outright that trending pieces were generated with AI. On the flip side, Pangram has also stated that for text under 75 words, the results may be less accurate.

This brings up another problem: how much trust can everyday users place in the accuracy of commercial AI text detectors when their very business models depend on users signing up to paid plans in order to access AI text "humanisers" and other rewriting tools?

Have AI text detectors been used to accuse authors?

In March 2026, American author Mia Ballard's horror novel *Shy Girl* was cancelled by publisher Hachette over allegations of AI writing, while Ms. Ballard was trolled online. Two months later, the Commonwealth Foundation defended its judging process after a few regional winners of its 2026 Commonwealth Short Story Prize were hit with AI accusations – namely the Trinidadian writer of East Indian heritage, Jamir Nazir, whose story *The Serpent in the Grove* was one of the five shortlisted winners.

In both cases, many social media users cited the results of AI text detectors in order to claim that the works of authors Mia Ballard and Jamir Nazir showed signs of being AI-generated. Specifically, Pangram was used to accuse both Ms. Ballard and Mr. Nazir of submitting AI writing. Though some users feel that being flagged by AI text detectors was clear evidence of creative dishonesty, others fear these still-experimental AI tools could wrongly damage the careers of authors and academics.

Razmi Farook, Director-General of the Commonwealth Foundation, stated that AI checkers were not used in the 2026 short story judging process. She was concerned about the ethical implications of submitting "unpublished original work" to an AI checker.

Ms. Farook further expressed disappointment at how the work of other feted writers and winners had faced scrutiny; Pangram AI published results claiming that it found more stories showing signs of AI use among the 2026 and 2025 Commonwealth short story prize winners.

All the shortlisted writers this year had personally stated that no AI was used, according to Ms. Farook, who highlighted that AI detection tools were "not unfailing or infallible," and that the competition had to operate on the principle of trust until a reliable detection process was available.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

Goa celebrated its statehood day on May 30. A quiz on what to know about the State:

N. Kesavan

QUESTION 1
In which year did Goa attain statehood, and from which State was it separated?

QUESTION 2
On what date does Goa celebrate its Liberation Day?

QUESTION 3
Goa attained statehood on May 30, and it became the .... State of India. Fill in the blanks.

QUESTION 4
Who owned Goa before India, and when was it annexed to India?

QUESTION 5
"Little Russia" in Goa refers to which place?

QUESTION 6
What was the name of Goa before it was changed to the present name?

Visual Question:
This place is famous for its "Blue Lagoon" — a stunning, emerald-green freshwater lagoon situated in South Goa. What is this place? WIKIPEDIA

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. Tibetans and Sherpas call Mt Everest Chomolungma. What does that mean? **Ans: Mother Goddess of the Earth**

2. This is a perilous area on Mt Everest where most mountaineers struggle to carry on because the air contains only about one-third of the oxygen available at sea level. What is it called? **Ans: The death zone**

3. Before the Great Trigonometrical Survey of India, which peak was considered the highest peak in the world? Also, which State government bans mountaineering expeditions from its side on this mountain, which is believed to be sacred? **Ans: Kanchenjunga, Sikkim**

4. She was the first woman to summit Mt Everest. A mountain range on Pluto is named after her. Name her. **Ans: Junko Tabei**

5. Humanity has littered the entire planet, from the peak of Mt Everest to the deepest point on earth. In both places, microplastics have been found. Name the deepest point. **Ans: Mariana Trench**

Visual: This man served as Surveyor General of India. He never saw the Everest but he is associated with it. Name him. **Ans: George Everest**

Early Birds: Utsav Kaushal | Suchit Narottam | K.N. Viswanathan | Dodo Jayaditya | Sukdev Shet

KNOW YOUR ENGLISH

The Minister delivered a boring speech

She hits the library whenever she needs to research a topic

S. Upendran

"You don't look very happy! Something bothering you?"

"Thinking about the speech my boss gave the shareholders yesterday. It was awful."

"Shareholders are only interested in making money. And your company has done really well this year. Your shareholders have probably forgotten about the awful speech your boss delivered."

"Delivered? I always thought one usually 'gave a speech' and not 'deliver'."

"Nowadays, a lot of people talk about 'delivering a speech' – especially, if it's done in a formal context. Like the speech your boss gave the shareholders."

"During the time of elections, our politicians deliver four or five speeches a day."

"Probably more. The Chief Minister delivered an absolutely boring speech."

"Reminds me of the boring lectures that some of my professors used to give."

"Nowadays, it's become common for people to say 'deliver a lecture'. The lecture that the well-known scientist delivered was fascinating."

"The lecture that the chief guest delivered was well-received by the audience. He got a standing ovation from the students."

"Fat chance of that happening! By the way, how was your two-week trip to Mumbai?"

"It was so sultry that I didn't do any of the sightseeing that I wanted to."

"How did you spend the time?"

"Mornings, I just stayed at home and gossiped with my cousins. Spent the evenings going to restaurants and eating great food."

"Seeing how tight your T-shirt has become, it's fairly obvious. You'd better start hitting the gym soon, otherwise..."

"Hitting the gym? Does it mean start going to the gym?"

"Not just going, but also exercising. As you know, some people go just for show. Here's an example. My grandfather is in his early 70s, but he makes it a point to hit the gym at least three times a week."

"Meaning he works out at the gym three days a week."

"That's right! He's in great shape."

"My problem is, after hitting the gym for a week, I get bored and want to do something else."

"That happens to a lot of people. So, what do you do? Do you start hitting the library?"

"I hit the library only once or twice a year."

"Same here. But my sister, on the other hand, hits the library at least once a week."

"Unlike you, she's smart and curious."

"I'm not going to argue with that. Wow! Look at the time! I'd better leave."

"Leave? Where are you going?"

"I have a doctor's appointment at 6:00."

"You mean 'doctor's appointment'?"

"Whether you say 'doctor appointment' or 'doctor's appointment', it doesn't really matter. Both are acceptable."

"Well, in that case, you'd better leave now to be in time for your doctor/doctor's appointment,"

"Good one! See you tomorrow."

upendrankye@gmail.com

Word of the day

Winsome:
charming in a childlike or naive way

Synonyms: engaging, delightful, appealing

Usage: *The actor won viewers over with his winsome personality.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/winsome

International Phonetic Alphabet: /wɪnsəm/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

From Page One

Women to get smart card for seamless travel in buses, metro

"During the enrolment process, applicants will undergo e-KYC verification, during which their residential address and other eligibility details will be digitally authenticated before the card is issued," a senior official from the Transport Department told *The Hindu*.

According to officials, the card will continue to guarantee free travel under the Shakti scheme across buses operated by the State's four transport corporations. At the same time, it will serve as a stored-value smart card for Metro journeys.

"The objective is to provide women with a single, convenient mobility card. A beneficiary can obtain the card free of cost, travel on government buses under the Shakti scheme without any charges, and also use the same card for Metro travel after recharging it. This will eliminate the need to carry multiple cards or tickets and make travel across different modes of transport much smoother," official said.

Currently, women passengers avail themselves of free travel under the Shakti scheme by obtaining a zero-fare ticket after presenting a valid government-issued identity card to the conductor. However, officials noted that there have been instances of individuals using invalid or duplicate identity documents to claim the benefit. They emphasised that the scheme is intended solely for women who are domiciled in Karnataka.

Officials further stated that the verification process will help ensure that only eligible beneficiaries receive the benefits. "While issuing the Shakti smart card, we will verify the applicant's residential address and other details required to avail the benefits under the Shakti scheme. The digital verification process will help improve transparency and efficiency," official added.

The smart card is also expected to replace the current practice of women passengers showing Aadhaar cards to conductors to avail themselves of free travel. Instead, conductors will validate journeys by swiping the card on electronic ticketing machines. The system will automatically generate zero-value tickets for Shakti beneficiaries while maintaining accurate passenger records.

An official said that the introduction of smart cards would also benefit conductors by improving the accuracy of passenger data. According to the official, there have been instances where zero-fare tickets were allegedly issued even when no eligible passenger was travelling, resulting in discrepancies in passenger records.

White Paper on Tamil Nadu finances being finalised

While assuming office last month, Vijay said his govt. would release the document, alleging that the DMK govt. left behind an empty treasury

T. Ramakrishnan
CHENNAI

Financial crunch: It is estimated that over ₹1 lakh crore a year would be required to fully implement around a dozen promises, including the free bus travel for women across the State. FILE PHOTO

A White Paper on the Tamil Nadu government's finances is getting the finishing touches. "The document is likely to be ready in a few days," says a senior official.

When he assumed office last month, Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay announced that his government would come out with a White Paper. He claimed the previous DMK government had left behind "an empty treasury". In fact, on Saturday, Finance Minister N. Marie Wilson said in Nagapattinam that it would take two weeks for the document to be finalised.

Now, the government is planning to present the White Paper in the Assembly, just as the AIADMK government did in August 2001. At that time, Finance Minister C. Ponnaiyan presented a White Paper as a part of his Budget speech for 2001-02. However, 20 years later, before presenting the Budget to the Assembly, the DMK government released a similar document at a press conference addressed by the then Finance Minister, Palanivel Thiaga Rajan. Given the tight financial position of the government, several election promises of the TVK will likely remain only on paper. According to a conservative estimate, it would require over ₹1 lakh crore a year to fully implement around a dozen promises, including the increase in the monthly assistance for women from ₹1,000 to ₹2,500, free bus travel for women across the State, six free refills of cooking gas cylinders, one-sovereign gold coins for eligible women at the time of marriage, gold rings for children who are born at government hospitals, ₹3,000 in old age pension, and the grant of ₹15,000 a year to parents or guardians of school-going children (up to Class 12).

The government has only implemented the diluted versions of the promises of 200 units of free electricity every month for the domestic category and a full waiver of crop loans taken by small and marginal farmers from cooperative societies along with a 50% waiver for big farmers. Though the free electricity for the domestic consumers has not triggered any adverse response, the decision on the crop loan waiver is being criticised by different parties, including the allies of the ruling TVK and farmers' bodies. The government has not yet spelt out how it is going to implement the increase in the monthly assistance for women as the annual burden will be approximately ₹39,000 crore, even if it chooses to cover only the present strength of 1.3 crore beneficiaries.

New railway zone in A.P. set to begin operations

V. Kamalakara Rao
VISAKHAPATNAM

The South Coast Railway (SCoR) zone in Andhra Pradesh, India's 18th railway zone, will be fully operational from Monday, marking a significant milestone in the region's railway infrastructure. Headquartered in Visakhapatnam, the zone was constituted following a Gazette notification issued by the Ministry of Railways on May 4, 2026.

The administrative set-up of the new zone is in place and Sandeep Mathur is the General Manager, railway sources told *The Hindu* on Sunday.

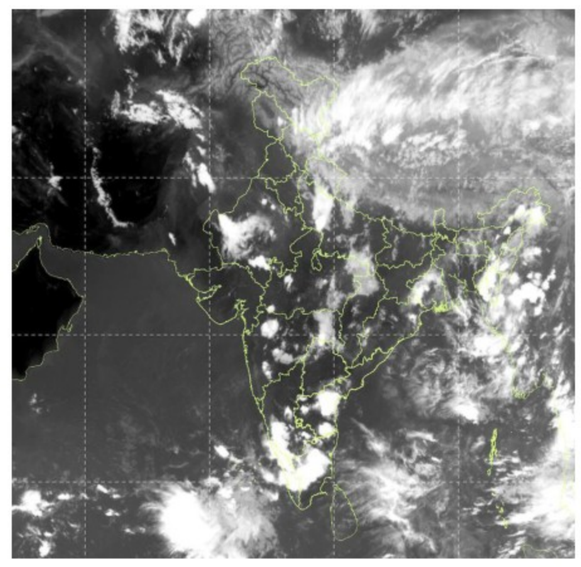
Mr. Mathur has been overseeing infrastructure projects, including capacity augmentation and track development, particularly the third- and fourth-line projects in the Visakhapatnam area.

The SCoR zone has four divisions: Visakhapatnam, Vijayawada, Guntakal and Guntur.

It covers a rail network across Andhra Pradesh and parts of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. Its principal officers include Vineet Kumar (Principal Chief Operations Manager), T.K. Sinha (Principal Chief Electrical Engineer), B.S.K. Raj Kumar (Principal Chief Engineer), P. Hariprasad (Principal Financial Advisor), L.V.S.S. Patrudu (Principal Chief Personnel Officer), D. Satyanarayana (Chief Commercial Manager/co-ordination) and B. Chandra Sekhar (Officer on Special Duty).

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 17.00 HRS)

Forecast for Monday: Heavy rainfall very likely in Gujarat, Kerala, Mahe, Lakshadweep, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Odisha, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal and West Madhya Pradesh. Thunderstorm with hailstorm very likely at isolated places over Madhya Maharashtra, Odisha and West Madhya Pradesh

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	35.6	25.8	Kurnool	—	39.5	28.1
Ahmedabad	3.0	40.0	23.8	Lucknow	—	36.3	24.7
Aizawl	0.2	32.8	20.0	Madurai	—	39.0	27.6
Bengaluru	11.0	32.2	20.5	Mangaluru	—	33.5	24.5
Bhopal	—	37.1	22.4	Mumbai	—	35.8	29.0
Bhubaneswar	—	37.4	26.5	Mysuru	14.0	32.0	22.0
Chandigarh	18.2	32.0	20.4	New Delhi	0.2	35.1	22.5
Chennai	—	40.2	29.2	Patna	—	36.1	27.6
Coimbatore	—	35.6	24.6	Port Blair	54.0	31.6	25.0
Dehradun	30.1	26.6	20.0	Prayagraj	—	38.6	26.0
Gangtok	—	26.0	16.4	Puducherry	—	37.8	28.4
Goa	—	35.4	28.8	Pune	—	37.0	26.7
Guwahati	—	35.4	25.7	Raipur	0.4	40.6	24.6
Hubballi	—	37.0	28.0	Ranchi	5.0	33.0	21.0
Hyderabad	—	39.0	29.2	Shillong	—	26.8	16.5
Imphal	2.0	29.5	22.1	Shimla	5.0	21.6	11.5
Jaipur	4.2	—	21.4	Srinagar	—	29.8	14.5
Kochi	3.0	31.0	26.6	Thiruvananthapuram	6.0	31.3	25.6
Kohima	—	—	—	Tiruchirappalli	—	40.3	28.4
Kolkata	—	36.6	25.2	Vijayawada	—	42.6	28.0
Kozhikode	—	35.2	27.0	Visakhapatnam	3.0	34.1	26.0

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	4	19	61	46	101	
Bengaluru	4	18	42	41	99	
Chennai	2	14	—	40	80	
Delhi	19	51	12	110	73	
Hyderabad	13	18	23	50	92	
Kolkata	8	25	39	66	94	
Lucknow	8	18	37	66	55	
Mumbai	13	103	29	21	51	
Pune	—	18	67	36	54	
Visakhapatnam	11	33	18	56	106	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Angul, Odisha recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 324 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu recorded a healthy AQI score of 24

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Five drown in Tungabhadra in A.P., bodies recovered

The Hindu Bureau
KURNOOL

The bodies of all the five persons who drowned in the Tungabhadra river near Mantralayam in Andhra Pradesh on Saturday evening were retrieved by rescue workers on Sunday.

Rescue workers also fished out the body of an unidentified person during the search.

The five victims, hailing from Anantapur and Kurnool districts in A.P., and Hyderabad in neighbouring Telangana, had come to Mantralayam to attend a family function. After attending a ritual, they, along with some others, entered the river waters.

The tragedy occurred when six members were swept away by currents as they entered deep inside the river after reportedly misjudging the depth of the water. While five persons drowned, one person managed to come out of the waters.

Night-long search

Assisted by expert swimmers and local fishermen, the rescue teams searched for the victims throughout the night and managed to trace them by Sunday afternoon.

The deceased were identified as Satish (35) and his five-year-old son Yuvan Chandra from Hyderabad, Raghavendra (25) and Dhanu (23) from Mantralayam, and Sandhya (22) from Uravakonda in Anantapur district.

The rescue workers recovered the body of an unidentified person aged around 70 during the search operation. Police are trying to ascertain the identity of the person.

Holiday rush

Vacation vibes: Tourists visit the Charminar in Telangana's Hyderabad on Sunday during the summer vacation period, as families make the most of the final days of the school holidays before classes resume. SIDDHANT THAKUR

First-ever SIP under PM-SETU scheme comes to A.P.

The Hindu Bureau
VISAKHAPATNAM

Andhra Pradesh has emerged as a pioneer in the national effort to upgrade vocational education, with the National Steering Committee (NSC) approving the first-ever Strategic Investment Plan (SIP) under the Pradhan Mantri Skilling and Employability Transformation through Upgraded ITIs (PM-SETU) scheme for the Visakhapatnam ITI Cluster, according to an official statement.

The proposal, submitted by ArcelorMittal/Nippon Steel India (AM/NS India), was cleared during the 3rd NSC meeting held at Kaushal Bhawan in New Delhi, chaired by Debashree Mukherjee, Secretary, Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE).

The National Steering Committee approved a ₹200.21-crore Strategic Investment Plan for Visakhapatnam's ITI Cluster under the PM-SETU scheme.

The approval marks the first operational industry partnership under the ₹60,000-crore flagship initiative across the nation, establishing Andhra Pradesh as the first State to onboard an Anchor Industry Partner (AIP).

Modernise infra

The PM-SETU scheme aims to transform 1,000 Government ITIs across the country through an industry-led 'Hub-and-Spoke' model, designed to modernise infrastructure and align vocational training with the requirements of advanced manufacturing and emerging technologies.

The successful approval of the Visakhapatnam cluster is expected to serve as a national model for strengthening industry participation in vocational training, fostering outcome-oriented governance, and enhancing the financial sustainability of Special Purpose Vehicles (SPVs) created under the scheme.

The initiative is a critical component of broader government efforts to build a future-ready workforce for Viksit Bharat-2047, with 32 States and Union Territories already having constituted their respective steering committees to accelerate implementation.

Revanth to kick off State-wide tour, launch multiple projects

R. Ravikanth Reddy
HYDERABAD

Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy will embark on an extensive multi-district five-day tour across the State beginning June 1, inaugurating welfare programmes, laying foundation stones for major infrastructure projects, reviewing irrigation works, and addressing public meetings.

Five-day tour

The tour is expected to showcase the State government's focus on housing, agriculture, irrigation, transport and women's empowerment. Mr. Reddy will begin his tour with a visit to Adilabad district on June 1, where he will launch the second phase of the Indiramma Housing Scheme.

Revanth Reddy

On June 3, Mr. Reddy will visit Koheda in Rangareddy district to lay the foundation stone for a massive integrated market project. The proposed market, spread over 239 acres, will be developed with modern facilities aimed at strengthening agricultural trade, logistics and market access for farmers and traders. Officials said the project is expected to emerge as one of Telangana's largest agricultural trading hubs.

Mr. Reddy's tour will conclude with a major programme at the Secunderabad Parade Ground on June 5, where 553 buses procured at ₹199 crore will be distributed to women's self-help groups. Under the initiative, the groups will own the buses and lease them to the Telangana State Road Transport Corporation, creating income-generating opportunities.

Signs of truce as SNDP Yogam leader Natesan's son calls on Kerala CM

G. Anand
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Signs of a temporary truce appeared to emerge between SNDP Yogam general secretary Vellappally Natesan and Kerala Chief Minister V.D. Satheesan on Sunday. Mr. Natesan's son Thushar Vellappally visited Mr. Satheesan's home in Aluva, Ernakulam, with a bevvy of SNDP Yogam leaders in tow.

Almost simultaneously, Labour Minister Bindhu Krishna called on Mr. Natesan at his house at Kanachikulangara, Alappuzha.

Mr. Natesan's alarmingly bitter criticism of Mr. Satheesan, often bordering on the personal, had, in some measure, animated the political debate during the Assembly election campaign. However, Mr. Natesan had signalled a climbdown after the Congress named Mr. Satheesan as the United Democratic Front's Chief Minister-designate.

Bharat Dharma Jana Sena president Thushar Vellappally calling on Chief Minister V.D. Satheesan at his house in Aluva on Sunday.

Mr. Natesan also seemed to execute a volte-face by stating that he had never questioned Mr. Satheesan's merit for holding high political office.

Mr. Thushar Vellappally, who is the SNDP Yogam vice-president and the National Democratic Alliance (NDA)'s State convener, projected an air of nonchalance after meeting Mr. Satheesan. "The general secretary [Mr. Natesan] has said good and bad things [about Mr Satheesan]. But the SNDP Yogam has not worked against him at the hustings," Mr. Thushar Vellappally said.

On his part, Mr. Satheesan had publicly stated that he would not personally attack Mr. Natesan, given the latter's age and the social import of the organisation he headed.

Language decorum

School education should not be the site of a cultural battle

The Supreme Court of India has issued notices to the Union Government, the CBSE, and the NCERT, directing them to file a comprehensive report on their logistical preparedness to implement a three-language formula in all CBSE schools for Class 9 students from July 1, 2026. On May 27, while hearing petitioners challenging the CBSE move, the Court declined to grant an immediate stay on the policy but acknowledged that concerns over "hardship and inconvenience" warranted review. The Court will hear arguments on July 15 and 16. The casual manner in which the government is using the CBSE to enforce its contentious language policy once again shows complete disregard for students, teachers, and parents. On May 15, the CBSE had issued a circular mandating the study of three languages for Class 9 students from July 1, citing alignment with the NEP 2020 and the National Curriculum Framework for School Education 2023. At least two of the three must be native Indian languages. Foreign languages such as French or German could only be taken as a third language if the first two were Indian, or alternatively as an optional fourth subject. In a meagre effort to camouflage the hardship unleashed on the students, the CBSE exempted the third language from the Class 10 Board examination, which would instead be assessed through school-based internal evaluations, though the marks would still appear on the final certificate.

Barely weeks earlier, the CBSE had stated that the third-language requirement would be deferred until the 2029-30 academic year. The abrupt turnabout can only be explained as a political decision. The move is being challenged in the Court on multiple grounds, including constitutional ones. The petitioners argue that language is a matter of personal choice and cannot be imposed by the state. It is also being pointed out that the NEP 2020, in whose name the mandate is being enforced, promises flexibility and guarantees that no language shall be imposed on any student or State. The petitioners also argue that the CBSE, as an executive body, lacks the authority to impose such a sweeping educational mandate without backing from parliamentary legislation, regardless of what the NEP says, being an executive policy intent and not a statute. Parents and teachers are alarmed about the added pressure on students just before their Board examinations. School administrators have flagged a shortage of trained language teachers and the unavailability of appropriate textbooks. Turning school education into a cultural battleground is not helping India's ambition to become a global reservoir of advanced human resources. The Centre should course-correct before the Court takes up the case again.

From bad to worse

Trump cannot achieve with diplomacy what he failed to get through war

When Donald Trump and Benjamin Netanyahu launched the war on Iran on February 28, their objectives were sweeping: regime change in Tehran, the dismantling of Iran's missile and nuclear programmes, and the curbing of its support for regional non-state allies. In the early days of the conflict, Mr. Trump ruled out any agreement with Iran and demanded its "unconditional surrender". The war went so badly for Washington that, three months later, Mr. Trump is negotiating a temporary ceasefire extension and the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz in exchange for economic concessions to Tehran. According to a draft MoU reported by U.S. media, Iran would restore maritime traffic through the Strait of Hormuz to pre-war levels, while the U.S. would gradually lift its blockade of Iranian ports. Tehran would also get access to its frozen funds, while the ceasefire would be extended on all fronts, including Lebanon. Yet, even if approved by both sides, the agreement is only a preliminary one. Mr. Trump no longer speaks of Iran's missile programme or its support for its regional allies. His focus has narrowed to the nuclear issue, essentially the line Barack Obama adopted in 2013, culminating in the 2015 nuclear agreement with Iran, which Mr. Trump sabotaged in 2018. Once the MoU is reached, Iran and the U.S. would start serious direct negotiations on the nuclear issue.

Mr. Trump's military campaign has failed to achieve any of its declared objectives. By striking U.S. bases across the Persian Gulf and taking control of the Strait of Hormuz, Iran widened the conflict regionally and economically. Mr. Trump announced the ceasefire on April 8, likely realising that air strikes would achieve little, and has tried to extract concessions from Iran through economic and military pressure. But Iran responded in kind. After Mr. Trump announced a blockade on Iranian ports, Tehran cancelled negotiations and pushed the nuclear file down its list of priorities. That Washington is now negotiating, through Pakistan, an MoU to extend the ceasefire and then take up the nuclear file suggests that Tehran's hardline tactics are yielding results. Tehran had previously engaged constructively with the U.S. When Mr. Trump unilaterally withdrew the U.S. from the 2015 nuclear deal, Iran was compliant with its obligations, and in early 2025 and February 2026, it was engaged in talks. So, if the U.S. seeks a deal, it must address the trust deficit and proceed on the basis of mutual concessions. If Mr. Trump is serious about a negotiated settlement, a deal is within reach. But if he seeks to achieve through diplomacy what he failed to secure through war, he risks entangling the U.S. in yet another forever war.

The majoritarian shadow over Adivasi identity, faith

Brinda Karat

Senior leader of the CPI(M)

Last week, the Janjati Suraksha Manch (JSM) and Vanvasi Kalyan Ashram, both Rashtriya Swayamsewak Sangh (RSS) progeny, held a conclave in Delhi – "Janjati Sanskritik Samagam" – attended by thousands of Adivasis from across the country The stated occasion was the 150th anniversary of legendary hero Birsa Munda. In the vote of thanks, the organisers acknowledged the extensive official machinery behind the gathering – from the Railway Ministry to Union Ministers, Chief Ministers, and senior officials. With Union Home Minister Amit Shah as the chief guest, the event was effectively semi-official. This is precisely why the speeches, demands raised, and the Home Minister's response deserve far closer scrutiny than an ostensibly cultural gathering would normally invite.

The JSM's core agenda against Christian conversions is well known, its main demand being the delisting of all Adivasi communities that have converted to Christianity and the stripping of their constitutional and legal protections on the grounds that they no longer subscribe to Adivasi beliefs. The organisation has run violent campaigns in several States in central India, particularly Chhattisgarh, targeting Adivasi families who have converted to Christianity – campaigns that have gone so far as the forcible exhumation of bodies from graves on privately owned land belonging to Christian Adivasis in tribal villages. In February this year, in a case pending before the Supreme Court of India, the Court issued interim orders restraining such exhumations. Yet, these incidents continue under the patronage of Bharatiya Janata Party State governments.

A foundational distinction

At the conclave, the demand for delisting was framed with reference to the recent Court judgment upholding the Presidential Order of 1950, which holds that persons belonging to Scheduled Castes (SC) who profess a religion "other than Hinduism" do not qualify for constitutional or legal benefits meant for SCs. The JSM's demand is that this principle be extended to Scheduled Tribes (ST) – a move that would require removing what one of its leaders described as "a weakness in the Constitution." What the JSM considers a weakness is, in fact, a foundational distinction: unlike in the case of SCs, neither the Constitution of India nor the law links the identity of STs to religion.

On the conclave stage, alongside portraits of Birsa Munda and a Hinduised image of "Bharat Mata", was a portrait of the late Kartik Oraon – a Congress Member of Parliament who once filed a petition challenging the candidature of two members of the Oraon community from an ST-reserved seat on the grounds that they were Christians. The Patna High Court, in its ruling in 1963, rejected his petition categorically, holding that "tribal identity is not religion-based," that it rests on ethnic and community kinship ties, and that "an Oraon remains an Oraon" regardless of whether he is Hindu, Christian, or Buddhist. The High Court further observed that, by and large, converted Adivasis continued to participate in community festivals and celebrations, and joined others in raising concerns common to all Adivasi communities. This judgment remains the governing legal precedent. The JSM seeks to overturn it, and its method for doing so is chillingly cruel: isolating converted families, forcibly preventing them from attending community festivals, and then using that coercively imposed exclusion as proof that converts have abandoned Adivasi culture, promoting their expulsion from traditional gram sabhas. Exclusion is engineered, then presented as evidence.

Majoritarian politics seeks to reshape Adivasi identity and rights

A campaign of cooption

Simultaneously, the JSM has been pushing the assertion that Adivasis belong to the broader "sanatan parivar". At the conclave, the organisation's national convenor declared: "They say Adivasis are not Hindus. What is this game? We are Ram's children – this is a conspiracy against us." Another leader proclaimed that "Adivasis exist in the shade of the great tree of Sanatan". The nature of the JSM's *"ghar wapasi* (homecoming") for converts is unambiguous – functions marked not with Adivasi symbols but those of Hindutva. In the JSM's worldview, Adivasis are "*vanvasis*" – forest dwellers defined by their service to Lord Ram, subordinate to upper-caste deities, and redeemable only through their blessings. The building of temples with Hindu idols in tribal villages, the rebranding of local deities as forms of Vishnu, Shiva or Durga, and the installation of Hanuman idols at village entry points are all part of this hegemonic cooption campaign.

Adivasis are fully entitled to choose their religion under Article 25 of the Constitution, which guarantees freedom of conscience and religion. There are laws, some quite draconian, to deal with conversions which are "fraudulent". Adivasis may choose to be Hindu, Christian, or of any other faith. But whether an Adivasi worships Ram or Jesus has no bearing on their identity as an Adivasi; this is a fundamental constitutional principle. What cannot be accepted is the distortion of this principle to suggest that an Adivasi who worships Ram is expressing Adivasi culture, while one who worships Jesus is betraying it. Adivasis have long demanded formal recognition of the distinctiveness of their beliefs, of their worship of nature, their animist traditions and practices. The Jharkhand Legislative Assembly, for instance, adopted a resolution calling for a separate column in the Census enumeration of religion for Adivasis to register their own beliefs, a demand reiterated by Adivasi intellectuals and numerous organisations across the country. But this has been unfairly ignored by the government, insulting Adivasi faith.

The urgent issues Adivasis face

It is this majoritarian agenda that Mr. Amit Shah endorsed going even further by describing the JSM's campaign as a contemporary "Ulgulan". Birsa Munda's Ulgulan was a revolt against colonial rule – and notably, he broke with Christian missionaries precisely because he saw them as instruments of that rule. Mr. Shah's political lineage, by contrast, never fought the British – it compromised with them. To invoke hero Birsa's name and the historic Ulgalan to legitimise a sectarian campaign against converted Adivasis is a grave betrayal of his legacy. Mr. Shah also declared that sanatanis too are nature worshippers, and that *jal*, *jangal*, *pahad* (water, forests, mountains) "is the centre of our beliefs".

His words ring hollow. Even as Mr. Shah spoke, tribal communities in Sijimali and Rayagada in Odisha were fighting to save their sacred mountain from bauxite mining operations approved by his own government. In the Hasdeo region of Chhattisgarh, thousands of Adivasis have spent years fighting against their forests being handed over to private mining companies – forests that were previously declared a "no-go zone," until the current regime decided otherwise. Lakhs of trees have been felled against the decisions of the gram sabhas, among them the *sal* and *karam*, the sacred trees around which Adivasi festivals and rituals are organised. The nature worshippers in Delhi have been remarkably efficient destroyers of nature.

The urgent issues before Adivasis are the sabotage of the Forest Rights Act, the virtual elimination of the rights of the gram sabha, the subversion of the Panchayat (Extension to Scheduled Areas), or PESA, the huge backlog in employment in reserved posts, the pathetic condition of Adivasi student hostels and arrears in scholarship payments, and the continuing lack of civic and health facilities in Adivasi areas, to name a few. And through all of this – not once, not in a single instance – has the JSM raised its voice in defence of Adivasi rights against government-enabled corporate takeovers of *jal*, *jangal*, and *zameen*. On the contrary, by splitting Adivasi communities along religious lines, it has served the interests of the very companies that are dispossessing them. Dividing the dispossessed is, after all, the oldest trick in the book.

For those committed to the defence of Adivasi rights, the JSM gathering and the Home Minister's endorsement are indications of the challenges ahead, which can and must be met by the united will of Adivasi resistance and democratic forces in the spirit of the great Adivasi heroes.

Shaping the next chapter in India-Canada relations

Chandrajit Banerjee

Director General, Confederation of Indian Industry

India and Canada are turning the page together, opening a vibrant new chapter as two democratic, multicultural, and innovation-driven nations. Both governments are signalling a fresh resolve to deepen cooperation and pursue common goals. Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney's recent trip to India (February 27-March 2, 2026) and the just-concluded visit of India's Commerce and Industry Minister, Piyush Goyal, to Canada highlight the importance both nations attach to their relationship in an evolving global order. These engagements reflect the growing strategic depth of the India-Canada bilateral partnership, built around four strategic pillars - economic cooperation, technological collaboration, energy security, and people-to-people connectivity.

The economic promise of a stronger India-Canada partnership has never been brighter. Mr. Carney's visit also reignited talks for a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA), and both nations' determination to finalise it by the end of 2026, along with the ambitious target of reaching $50 billion in bilateral trade by 2030, signals a new era of economic confidence.

The view from Ottawa

For Canada, India represents not only a vast consumer market but also a cornerstone in its Indo-Pacific diversification ambitions. As shifting supply chains and global uncertainties reshape trade, India offers Canada a gateway to new opportunities and a chance to deepen ties with a vibrant economy. India's surging appetite for energy, infrastructure, technology, and advanced manufacturing dovetails with Canada's expertise in natural resources, clean energy, critical minerals, agriculture, and innovation. Moreover, India's rapid ascent as a global growth engine pairs strongly with Canada's wealth of resources, cutting-edge technologies, world-class universities, and robust investment capital. The ongoing talks on uranium, critical minerals, clean energy, and resilient supply chains further highlight just how strategically vital this partnership has become.

Trade, technology and trust mark a revitalised partnership

To this end, Mr. Goyal's visit to Canada comes at a particularly significant juncture in the bilateral economic relationship. Accompanied by a delegation of over 100 Indian industry leaders, the visit signals a renewed intent on both sides to strengthen economic engagement and impart fresh momentum to the CEPA negotiations. Equally important, it seeks to deepen business-to-business linkages, enhance investor confidence, and encourage industry on both sides to translate strategic intent into tangible commercial partnerships and long-term economic collaboration.

India is fast becoming a driving force in Canada's future prosperity. Indian companies have invested significantly in Canada and created thousands of jobs across the country, in sectors ranging from technology and life sciences to manufacturing and mining, highlighting the depth and diversification of bilateral business relations. This two-way business presence is an important marker of trust and long-term commercial confidence.

The diaspora link

The Indian diaspora stands as a living bridge between the two nations. Indian-origin entrepreneurs, professionals, academics, students, and community leaders have left an incredible mark on Canada's economic and social landscape. Their achievements reflect the spirit of entrepreneurship, innovation, and multiculturalism that both countries hold dear. The diaspora should be recognised as a strategic asset, ready to drive trade, investment, innovation, talent exchange and cultural understanding.

Meanwhile, Canadian pension funds are supporting India's growth story, investing in everything from infrastructure and logistics to clean energy, financial services, and digital ventures. This vibrant two-way investment proves that when these economies engage, both nations reap the rewards of growth, innovation, and opportunity.

Strengthening Indo-Pacific cooperation

The India-Canada partnership resonates far beyond their borders, carrying weight across the Indo-Pacific. Canada's Indo-Pacific strategy places India at its heart, recognising its economic potential, youthful population, and strategic clout. Both nations champion a free, open, inclusive, and rules-based region. By joining forces in maritime security, advanced technologies, artificial intelligence, clean energy, resilient supply chains, and climate action, they can drive prosperity at home and stability throughout the region.

The path ahead calls for steady engagement, trust, and a relentless focus on real-world outcomes. The most resilient economic partnerships are built on lasting commercial interests and vibrant people-to-people connections. The momentum from the recent high-level visits shows that both countries are eager to invest in a shared future. The partnership must also become more inclusive for small and medium enterprises on both sides. As the backbone of their respective economies, these enterprises hold immense untapped potential to drive bilateral trade and investment.

India and Canada are natural allies, innovation collaborators, and pivotal players in shaping the Indo-Pacific's future. India's drive for growth, energy transformation, and manufacturing expansion opens a wealth of opportunities for Canadian businesses and investors. This is the moment to transform goodwill into action and promise into partnership. With shared vision and determination, these two nations can forge one of the decade's most influential economic alliances.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The new exam normal

The CUET-UG technical-glitch fiasco is one mishap too many. In the last two years, India's examination ecosystem has produced a trifecta of institutional failures: the NEET-UG paper leak, which compromised meritocracy at its roots; the CBSE OSM debacle, which resulted in a seven-year low in pass percentages; and now a technical breakdown that sent over 3,700 biometrically registered candidates home without taking the examination. Collectively, these constitute a pattern rather than a series of isolated incidents.

When failure and breakdown become the norm rather than the exception, they cease to be merely operational problems and become a credibility crisis. Institutional trust, once eroded, is not easily rebuilt. India's students, navigating an already brutal competitive landscape, deserve systems as resilient as the effort they invest. Students are the country's future; they must not be left marooned in the choppy waters of an examination system that has become its own Bermuda Triangle.

Nishat,
New Delhi

Corrections & Clarifications

A report, "Spurious liquor kills 15 in Maharashtra; 8 held, probe ordered (May 30, 2026), the reference to "the main accused, Colonel Virkha Singh" was erroneous. It should have been Karnelsingh Virkha, a civilian.

In an Editorial, "Coerced consent" (May 25, 2026), a sentence should have read, "When the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) took effect in 2024, Parliament effectively replaced Section 124A with Section 152 and *revised the sentence up to* seven years".

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India's education policy cannot become a laboratory for poorly implemented digital experiments. Careers and mental health are at stake. The Education Minister must restore credibility in examinations.

Harsh Pawaria,
Rohtak, Haryana

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the postal address.

Towards a dialogue on adolescent sexuality

Shraddha Chaudhary

Assistant Professor, School of Law, BML Munjal University

A recent judgment of the Supreme Court of India, allowing the medical termination of pregnancy at 28 weeks, has received significant media attention. Much of this attention stems from the arguments advanced on behalf of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), which has sought for a reconsideration of the judgment.

Doctors at AIIMS argued that what the court described as a medical termination of pregnancy would, in reality, involve delivering a living child at 28 weeks, one likely to be born with serious medical complications, long-term co-morbidities and disabilities. They asked that the delivery be pushed by six weeks to improve the child's chances of survival. These arguments were rejected by the court in rather strong terms.

A doctor's ethical burden

The nature of the doctors' argument is not inherently distinct from claims about a (much younger) foetus' interest in being carried to term. In both cases, more time in the womb increases the chances of survival outside it. However, since a 28-week foetus is at a more advanced stage of gestation, two things change about the claim.

First, doctors are better able to predict both the foetus' chances of survival and the medical complications it may face, making concerns about neo-natal care and future health more concrete. Second, and not unrelatedly, the ethical burden of the doctor who must perform the delivery increases significantly. Where a foetus is not viable, the doctor's sole obligation is to the pregnant woman. But where a living child may be delivered, the doctor's obligations extend to that child as well. A doctor may, therefore, experience the procedure not merely as an abortion, but as a medically induced premature delivery that immediately creates an obligation to preserve life. While the court's order protects her from legal action, it does not extinguish her ethical and moral obligations as a doctor and as a human being.

None of this necessarily undermines the court's decision. Faced with an unwed minor who had reportedly attempted suicide twice, the court understandably prioritised her reproductive autonomy and well-being. But the doctors' objections, though framed as concern for the unborn child, also reflect a potent anxiety: the ethical burden placed on medical professionals asked to perform such procedures at the edge of foetal viability. This burden need not change how we think about the outcome of the case, but it deserves to be acknowledged for the ethical tensions underlining it.

On adolescent sexual activity

These ethical tensions are not accidental or anomalous. The immense trauma endured by the unwed minor, the predicament of the unborn but viable foetus, and the ethical burden of the doctors are all symptomatic of a deeper structural issue. Cases like these arise because of a serious and largely unnoticed failure of the state to deal appropriately with the phenomenon of teenage sex. In this case, a de-facto consensual sexual relationship between a 15-year-old girl and her 17-year-old partner resulted in pregnancy. The pregnancy went unnoticed until the minor's mother reportedly observed 'an unusual heaviness' in her abdomen, by which time it was already too advanced to terminate without court intervention. This is because the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, as amended in 2021, does not allow abortions beyond 24 weeks even in exceptional circumstances.

The Indian state's approach to the issue has largely been one of blanket criminalisation: all sexual activity involving minors is treated as a criminal offence, regardless of whether it involves coercion, exploitation, or de-facto consensual sexual activity between adolescents. Studies from the U.S. have shown that abstinence-only policies fail to prevent adolescents from having sex. Empirical studies on the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012 (POCSO) in India have also repeatedly shown that nearly 10-15% of all cases before the POCSO special courts involve de-facto consensual relationships, and there is nothing to suggest that the law manages to deter such sex amongst adolescents.

If anything, this criminalisation works in tandem with the absence of adequate and comprehensive sex education in educational institutions.

Policies such as the ban on condom advertisements between 6.00 a.m. and 10.00 p.m., and a generally repressive culture around sex brush questions of sex and sexuality under the carpet. Instead of teaching adolescents the essentials of safe sex, menstruation, sexually transmitted diseases and pregnancy, the answer to all questions around sex and sexuality is reduced to a simplistic "don't do it". However, preventing cases such as this is more likely to require comprehensive sex education and an emphasis on safe sexual practices.

The way forward

Such policies require a more nuanced conversation around adolescent sexuality, in which we are willing to acknowledge that de-facto consensual sexual interactions involving adolescents exist and should not be conflated with instances of child rape and exploitation. They also require a commitment to steady long-term measures, which may not provide short-term rhetorical gains.

Thus, if our concern is truly the well-being of adolescents, the solution is not a refusal to acknowledge their sexuality but a commitment to engage with it honestly and meaningfully.

Policies such as the ban on condom advertisements between 6.00 a.m. and 10.00 p.m., and a generally repressive culture around sex brush questions of sex and sexuality under the carpet

How T.N.'s healthcare leads by example

The State offers the country a healthcare system that is accessible

STATE OF PLAY

G.S.K. Velu

For many years in India, healthcare progress was largely measured by hospital expansions, medical colleges and public health infrastructure. While these remain important, the next phase of healthcare reform requires a broader, integrated approach that links infrastructure with accessibility, workforce capability, diagnostics, technology and long-term outcomes. In this context, Tamil Nadu provides an example.

The State's healthcare strengths did not emerge overnight. They resulted from decades of institutional focus on primary healthcare, maternal and child health, medical education, disease prevention, public health outreach and decentralised healthcare delivery. The Tamil Nadu Medical Service Corporation (TNMSC) is an aspirational model, established in 1994 to streamline procurement, storage and distribution of essential medicines across government institutions. By improving availability and reducing inefficiencies, the TNMSC became a national reference for public-sector drug procurement. This reform showed that healthcare progress is not just about building hospitals, but about creating systems that make care accessible and accountable.

Over time, Tamil Nadu has created a mature healthcare ecosystem combining public health infrastructure with private partnerships. The 8,700 sub-health centres across districts reinforce a larger principle: strong healthcare systems are built when investment is distributed evenly rather than being

concentrated only in urban hospitals.

One of the State's key strengths is its emphasis on diagnostics in primary healthcare. Public health programmes and community screenings now reach lakhs of citizens across urban and rural regions. For a large, diverse country such as India, primary care systems with robust diagnostics are essential. Early diagnosis reduces pressure on tertiary hospitals, thereby curbing long-term treatment costs. Another important lesson is decentralised healthcare delivery. Investments of nearly ₹360 crore in district hospitals and local microbiology laboratory networks reduce regional disparities in healthcare access.

On integrating technology

Technology also plays a defining role in the next phase of healthcare delivery. AI, digital health records, telemedicine and remote diagnostics can improve efficiency and extend access to underserved areas. Tamil Nadu's focus on digital public health systems and data-led healthcare governance is therefore an important development.

Equally important is healthcare workforce capacity. A core focus at the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) is workforce upskilling and future-ready care. Tamil Nadu attracts patients from across India owing to its government institutes and medical colleges. Building physical infrastructure without parallel investments in workforce development risks creating facilities without operational strength. Continuous upskilling in diagnostics, digital health technologies, AI-assisted systems and multidisciplinary models helps build a sustainable ecosystem.

Tamil Nadu is also well placed to become a preferred manufacturing destination for medical devices and equipment, leveraging its existing strengths in auto components, electronics and precision engineering. Reducing import dependency will be critical to strengthening the State's healthcare provisioning further. Lastly, strong collaboration between public and private sectors is essential in addressing systemic challenges. While public health systems provide scale and reach, private healthcare, diagnostics, MedTech and digital health ecosystems contribute to innovation, technology and specialised capabilities.

However, it is also important to recognise that even relatively mature healthcare systems face challenges. Patient load pressures, workforce distribution gaps, operational bottlenecks remain concerns across Indian States.

The lesson from Tamil Nadu is not about replicating an identical structure – but about replicating the underlying principles of sustained investments, decentralised delivery, workforce development and technology-enabled systems. That is the blueprint India must now pursue.

Dr. G.S.K. Velu is Chairman FICCI Tamil Nadu State Council and CMD Trivitron Healthcare /Neuberg Diagnostics/ Maxivision Eye Hospitals

Prisons in India continue to be overcrowded by undertrials

More than half of the States/UTs had an occupancy rate of over 100% in 2024 despite a modest increase in capacity

DATA POINT

Sambavi Parthasarathy

While the latest Prison Statistics report released by the National Crime Records Bureau show that the occupancy rate in Indian jails fell to a decade-low of 112.7% in 2024, data shows that overcrowding remains a persisting problem in Indian prisons driven largely by a high share of undertrials. The report also highlighted other concerns such as insufficient capacity expansion and high levels of staff vacancies.

In more than half of the States/Union Territories (UTs) in India, prisons continue to operate beyond their sanctioned capacity. At the end of 2024, the country had about 1,333 jails with a capacity of 4.53 lakh inmates. However, with an inmate population of over 5.11 lakh, prisons continued to be overcrowded.

A Parliamentary Committee report, titled 'Prison- Conditions, Infrastructure and Reforms', noted that overcrowding strains resources, compromises living standards, increases tensions among inmates and limits their access to healthcare and rehabilitation facilities. It also recommended various measures such as the constructions of new buildings, barracks and prisons, transfers to other jails and free legal aid.

While the total number of jails remained lower than the pre-pandemic period, prison capacity has increased by 24% between 2015 and 2024 largely due to renovations and expansions which were carried out across 2,268 prisons in this period **(Chart 1)**. Over 120 prisons were newly constructed in these years.

Though overall capacity has improved modestly, several States are yet to catch up. A Statewise analysis shows that more than half of the States had an occupancy rate of over 100% in 2024. Delhi recorded the highest occupancy rate in the country at 194% in 2024, much like the previous year when its occupancy rate stood at 200% **(Chart 2)**. Other major States/UTs which saw high occupancy rates include Jammu and Kashmir, where occupancy rates increased from a mere 78% in 2015 to over 148% in 2023 and 2024.

However, the levels have relatively reduced in States such as Uttar Pradesh and Chhattisgarh which had previously registered higher occupancy rates. For instance, Chhattisgarh registered an occupancy rate of 234% in 2015. As per the latest report, this figure has decreased to 127.6%.

This problem of overcrowded prisons can be attributed to the disproportionately higher share of undertrials – who accounted for about 73% of the total inmate population in 2024 **(Chart 3)**. While this is much lower than in 2021, when the undertrial population in prison peaked at about 77%, this is still higher than pre-COVID periods. On the other hand, the share of convicts in prisons reduced from about 32% in 2016 to 26.6% in 2024.

A Statewise analysis shows that in about 14 States/UTs, the share of undertrials is higher than the all India average **(Chart 4)**. With over 87% of its inmates being undertrials, Delhi and Bihar were the two major States/UTs to have the highest share of undertrial population in its prisons.

Further, the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs also expressed concern that the high levels of staff vacancies has become the most neglected part of prison administration. States/UTs such as Delhi and Jammu which registered higher occupancy rates and a higher share of undertrials also had a higher share of staff vacancies. Almost half of the sanctioned posts remained vacant in about 8 States/UTs. At least 60% of its sanctioned prison staff remained vacant in Delhi and Jammu and Kashmir.

Arrested development

The data for the charts were sourced from the Prison Statistics India report, published by the National Crime Records Bureau

Chart 1: The total number of jails (left axis) and available capacity (right axis) at the end of each year

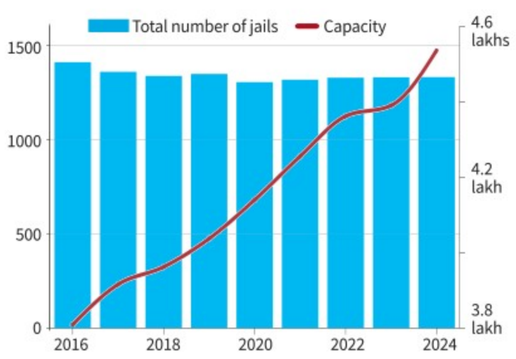


Chart 2: Prison occupancy rates in select States/UTs in the 2015-2024 period. The darker the blue, the higher the occupancy rate

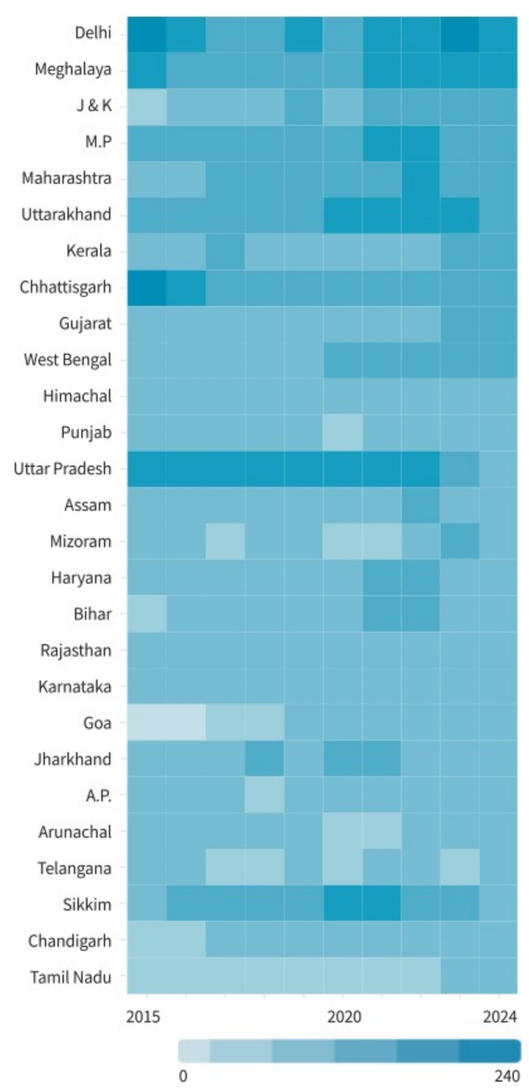


Chart 3: Types of prison inmates in jails between 2016 and 2024. Undertrials disproportionately form a higher share of inmates

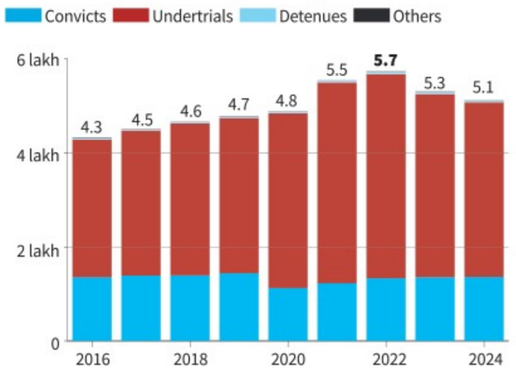
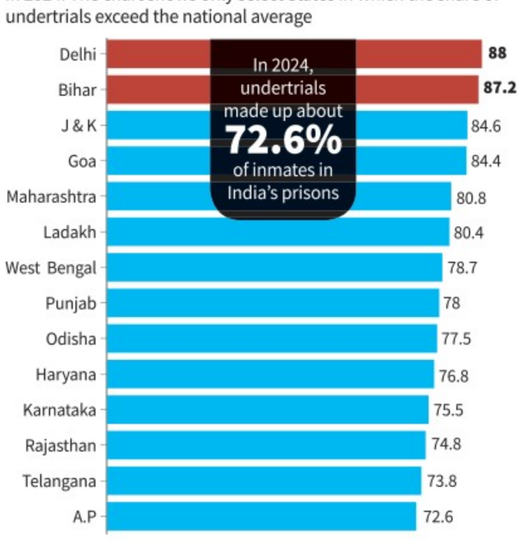


Chart 4: Undertrials as a share of the total population of inmates in 2024. The chart shows only select States in which the share of undertrials exceed the national average



FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Hindu

FIFTY YEARS AGO JUNE 1, 1976

Communists 'active' in Singapore

Singapore, May 31: The Singapore government on Thursday announced that beneath the surface of calm in Singapore extensive clandestine activities by communists had been going on in the Republic to recruit people from higher strata of society including members of the Armed Forces.

A Ministry of Home Affairs statement said that since January this year 50 persons had been arrested, among whom were a Singapore Navy officer and a few Navy personnel, a proprietor of a firm, a contractor, a sales manager and an Australian-trained principal of a ballet school.

The Ministry said that the links had been traced from underground cells in Singapore to contact points in Kuala Lumpur and Johore in Malaysia, Betong in south Thailand, Bangkok and Hong Kong.

The recent raids by security officials constituted the third major security operation since 1964 when 113 were arrested. In the June 1974 operation, a lawyer and two Chinese journalists were among those arrested.

The new members' motivation to join the communists is not necessarily ideological or economic. Some of the arrested were chauvinists, some victims of communist literature and others dissatisfied with the Government's policies.

Prominent among those arrested are of Chinese origin and connected with the Malayan Peoples Liberation League, the political wing of the CPM-Marxist-Leninist group, said to be Russian-oriented, while the CPM is Maoist.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JUNE 1, 1926

New steel alloy discovered

Rugby, May 31: The discovery of a new steel alloy is announced by Sir Robert Hadfield, head of Hadfields Limited, the great Shefield Steel Firm. As indication of the high temperature which the alloy will heat, a gas turbine has been constructed which runs at 55,000 revolutions a minute at a working temperature of 1655 degrees Fahrenheit.

It is stated that the machines made with this steel can be worked at bright red heat and the discovery is expected to prove of great importance in the application of high temperature gases.

From Page One

‘Vulnerabilities in CBSE platform contained’

“I sent my first report to the CBSE on February 25, and within three to four days, they took the portal down,” he said. “Six or seven vulnerabilities were still active and exploitable later but the CBSE did not respond to my e-mails. This was pretty frustrating. I noticed that the CBSE had poorly managed infrastructure and the passwords used were easy to guess,” Mr. Adhikary said.

Earlier, the Board had rejected claims that its evaluation platform had been compromised. Mr. Adhikary had countered this claim.

On May 30, Mr. Adhikary managed to hack into the CBSE’s Principals dashboard in the On-Screen Marking platform. “The dashboard and the portal had had 9.3 million columns and rows of sensitive student data, including images of answer sheets of students which lay unprotected and could be easily tampered with,” he said.

He has alleged that there are data sovereignty issues with how COEMPT Eduteck [the CBSE’s technology vendor] handled sensitive student exam data. He has alleged that an Amazon Web Services (AWS) bucket containing 2026 answer sheets and question papers could be accessed without authentication.

“COEMPT should have ideally stored the data on their own servers, but they took the ‘cheap easy route’ of storing answer sheets in Amazon Web Services public buckets without security checks,” Mr. Adhikary said. Sensitive data, including personal information of students, was processed by Google’s Gemini in automation scripts prepared by quality assurance engineers of COEMPT, he added. Mr. Adhikary called this “scary” and “sad”, where a third party sends such data to the U.S. for processing. “Data Privacy Laws are not respected and they [the company] should get sued for doing this without student consent,” he said.

Congress leaders to take Cabinet talks to Delhi

Some senior leaders, who had not made the Siddaramaiah’s Cabinet, such as B.R. Patil, Tanveer Sait and Vijayanand Kashappanavar, also met Mr. Shivakumar seeking an opportunity as the government is left with little less than two years.

The high command is also likely to intervene on behalf of some legislators to provide a finality to the list, sources said. On the number of Ministers to be sworn in on Wednesday, Mr. Kharge said no formal proposal had reached the party high command. There would be clarity on it by Wednesday, he said. “Decisions regarding how many Ministers need to be inducted, how many deputy Chief Ministers are required, and whether the appointments of chairpersons to crucial State corporations should happen simultaneously will be decided after a concrete proposal,” he said.

Meanwhile, Mr. Shivakumar and Mr. Siddaramaiah will be carrying their list of choices for the berths during their visit to Delhi on Monday.

Enumeration for Phase 3 of SIR exercise begins

During the enumeration phase, booth-level officers (BLOs) will conduct house-to-house visits and provide enumeration forms to all existing electors, who can then submit the filled forms either through the BLO or online. To ensure maximum coverage, the BLOs will visit each household, for distribution, collection, and verification of forms.

During house-to-house enumeration, the BLOs must carry at least 30 blank Form 6 copies along with blank declaration forms, to supply anyone who seeks to enrol as a new elector.

With a view to widen political party involvement, the EC has allowed the booth-level agents (BLAs) of recognised political parties to collect up to 50 forms per day from the public, and hand it over to the BLO before the publication of draft rolls. National- and State-recognised political parties may appoint more BLAs to assist BLOs in the smooth and effective conduct of the SIR process, the EC said.

With the third phase, the SIR exercise will cover the entire country except Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh.

‘Nepal has encroached upon Indian territory’

After Mr. Shah’s remarks created a furore, the Nepal Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued a statement clarifying that the issue raised by the Prime Minister was “primarily related to encroachment in the Dasgaja area (no-man’s land)” and “cross-border occupation” – that is, the use or possession of land across the border. “ ...situations have arisen where citizens of one country cultivate land or reside on land that falls within the territory of the other country,” the Ministry said.

“Studies conducted by the technical committee have shown that, in some places, land currently being used and occupied by Nepal may actually fall on the Indian side of the border...,” the Ministry added. “The Prime Minister’s statement in Parliament that ‘in some places, Indian land may be on Nepal’s side’ was made in reference to this technical reality and the issue of cross-border occupation.”

Six die as building collapses in Delhi; locals blame negligence

The five-storey structure collapsed on canteen where doctors, aspirants preparing for govt. exams were having food; Delhi govt. suspends two MCD engineers; building was uninhabitable, say locals

Shrimansi Kaushik
NEW DELHI

Six people – five doctors and a canteen owner – died as a five-storey building collapsed and fell on a canteen adjacent to it in the Saidulajab area of Mehrauli here on Saturday evening. Residents alleged that the building was uninhabitable and illegal construction was going on despite the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) issuing notice to the owner based on a complaint.

The Delhi government suspended two MCD engineers on Sunday while the police registered a case of negligence. After the collapse, at least 13 persons were rescued from the rubble, most of them doctors or NEET-PG and FMGE aspirants. “Those rescued were taken immediately to AIIMS Trauma Centre and Safdarjung hospital for treatment. While five were declared brought dead, five were admitted for treatment. Three were discharged after treatment,” said a senior police official.

The police registered an FIR under Sections 105 (culpable homicide not amounting to murder), 290 (negligent conduct regarding construction of buildings) and 125 (a) (negligent act endangering human life) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS).

Rescue works under way after a five-storey building collapsed on Saturday evening in Saket, Delhi, on Sunday. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

Exam aspirants

The deceased were Kapil Lohaniya, Alok Verma, Ravi Singh, Nalin Roy, Ekta Chaudhary, and Parvati Ojha. At least three of them hailed from other States and were preparing for various government exams in Delhi. Among the six deceased, five were doctors and one was the owner of the canteen where they were having food when the building collapsed.

The area houses many aspirants who prepare for government exams and has multiple coaching centres. The building that collapsed had a corporate office and a library among other facilities.

Ojha, 39, ran ‘Aunty Canteen’ in Saidulajab, right next to the building that collapsed. “I was there at the canteen with other workers. Parvati saw the building falling and raised an alarm. She appealed to everyone to run outside. She had almost stepped out but went back inside to see if anyone was left when a beam of concrete fell on her head,” said her nephew.

“There were at least 14 persons inside the canteen when the building fell. The building itself might have had a few more people,” he added. Chief Minister Rekha Gupta visited the site on Sunday morning following which the two MCD engineers – Aman Jain (Junior Engineer) and Sudesh Singh Chouhan (Assistant Engineer) – from South Zone were suspended.

According to a resident, the building was at least 20 years old. “Earlier, there were only three floors. This year, two more floors were added and the construction of the sixth floor was going on,” said Abdul Sakir, who had registered a complaint with the MCD in March about the illegal construction. “But no action was taken.”

Anand Kumar, a resident of Saidulajab, also said the building already had up to five floors. “It was known among locals that the building was uninhabitable and the MCD had also issued notices to the owner. Now, we hear about how the MCD had presented in the High Court that construction had been stopped, which was not true,” he added.

General Subramani takes charge as CDS; lays emphasis on ‘JAI’

Saurabh Trivedi
NEW DELHI

General N.S. Raja Subramani on Sunday assumed charge as India’s third Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) and Secretary, Department of Military Affairs.

Soon after assuming office, General Subramani paid tribute to fallen soldiers by laying a wreath at the National War Memorial in New Delhi. He was later accorded a ceremonial Tri-Services Guard of Honour at South Block.

Addressing reporters, the new CDS expressed gratitude for the trust reposed in the armed forces and reaffirmed his commitment to strengthening national security through greater integration among the services. “The Indian Army, Navy, Air Force, Ministry of Defence, strategic institutions and all stakeholders stand united as part of the Whole of Nation approach to strengthen India’s security,” he said.

He said the armed forces would work towards implementing Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s vision of “JAI” – Jointness, *Atma Nirbharta* (self-sufficiency), and Innovation. He said organisational reforms aimed at enhancing synergy, integration, and operational effectiveness among the three services would remain a key focus area. “*Atma Nirbharta* is a central pillar of our national security. We will accelerate the development, induction, and integration of indigenous weapons in our armed forces,” he said, while stressing the need for innovation in thought and action.

Gen. N.S. Raja Subramani

A highly decorated officer with more than four decades of service, General Subramani was commissioned into the Garhwal Rifles in December 1985. He has held several key command and staff appointments, including General Officer Commanding 2 Corps, GOC-in-C Central Command, and Vice Chief of the Army Staff.

Odisha govt. clears key road for Vedanta’s mining project

Satyasundar Barik
BHUBANESWAR

The Odisha government has granted permission for the construction of a road connecting State Highway 44 and Sijimali hilltop to facilitate the transportation of bauxite in Kashipur block of Rayagada district.

Sijimali, with an estimated 311 million tonnes of bauxite, was allocated to Vedanta in March 2023. The mineral is crucial for the Vedanta Group to keep its alumina refinery at Lanjigarh running. However, the project has since been facing resistance from local people, who fear that mining activity could dry up streams and adversely impact their livelihood.

For several months, villagers have been living in makeshift shelters atop the hill, keeping a round-the-clock watch to prevent the construction of the road from Bichhapinda along SH-44 to Sijimali hilltop.

Vedanta’s Sijimali project has faced resistance from locals fearing that mining may adversely affect their livelihoods. BISWARANJAN ROUT

The State-run Odisha Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation (IDCO) had applied for the diversion of 4.911 hectares of forest land for the construction of an access road from Sijimali bauxite mines (Hill Top) to SH-44 to facilitate bauxite transportation.

The Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change granted Stage-I (in-principle) approval for diversion of the forest land in January 2026. Subsequently, considering the compliance with the conditions laid down under the ‘Stage-II in-principle’ approval, the Ministry granted Stage-II approval (final) under Section-2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980, for non-forestry use of 4.911 hectares of forest land in favour of the IDCO on May 6.

Following the final approval, the State has now allowed non-forestry use of 4.911 hectares for road construction.

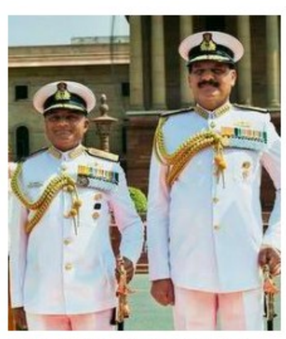
Admiral Swaminathan takes charge as 27th chief of Navy

Saurabh Trivedi
NEW DELHI

Admiral Krishna Swaminathan on Sunday assumed charge as the 27th Chief of the Naval Staff (CNS) of the Indian Navy, succeeding Admiral Dinesh Kumar Tripathi, who retired after over 41 years of service.

Soon after taking over the command of the maritime force, Admiral Swaminathan reaffirmed the Navy’s commitment to protecting national and economic interests amid an increasingly complex regional security environment. Speaking to reporters on the occasion, the new Navy chief said he was honoured to lead the force at a time when maritime security challenges continue to evolve.

“I’m extremely grateful to have this opportunity to serve the Indian Navy and the nation in this capacity. The Indian Navy stands vigilant to protect national interests and is actively deployed in a regional security environment that remains challenging, complex, unpredictable and uncertain,” he said.



Adm. Krishna Swaminathan with outgoing Navy chief Adm. Dinesh Kumar Tripathi in New Delhi. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

Highlighting his priorities as the Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Swaminathan stressed the importance of maintaining the highest standards of operational readiness and combat effectiveness. He said the Navy would continue its ongoing modernisation drive while accelerating the induction of niche and emerging technologies to strengthen its operational capabilities. “The Indian Navy is well set on a course of capability enhancement and modernisation. It shall be my endeavour to sustain the growth momentum, consolidate ongoing programmes and sharpen our operational capabilities,” he added.

Commissioned into the Indian Navy on July 1, 1987, Admiral Swaminathan is a Communication and Electronic Warfare specialist with nearly four decades of distinguished service.

During his career, he has held several key operational and staff appointments, including Commander of Western Fleet, Vice Chief of Naval Staff and Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief of Western Naval Command, a position he held prior to becoming the Navy chief.

Punjab and Haryana HC suspends ex-CBI court special judge

Press Trust of India
CHANDIGARH

The Punjab and Haryana High Court has suspended with immediate effect judicial officer Rajeev Goyal, the former Panchkula CBI court special judge.

At the time of the suspension, he was posted as the additional district and sessions judge, Kaithal.

The suspension order did not specify any reason, though it indicates that it pertains to the period when Mr. Goyal was posted as special judge in the CBI court.

The May 29 order, issued by the court’s Registrar General, states: “Hon’ble Chief Justice and judges, in exercise of powers under Article 235 of the Constitution of India read with Rule 4 (b) of the Haryana Civil Services (Punishment and Appeal), Rules, 2016... to place Sh. Rajeev Goyal, the then special judge, CBI Court, Panchkula (now posted as additional district and sessions judge, Kaithal) under suspension with immediate effect in contemplation of initiation of disciplinary proceedings against the officer.”

“During the period of suspension, the headquarters of Sh. Rajeev Goyal will be at Kaithal. He will not leave the headquarters during this period without the prior permission of the district and sessions Judge, Kaithal..,” reads the order.

Mr. Goyal was transferred to Kaithal as additional district and sessions judge over a month ago.

3 detained in Kashmir while trying to cross into Pakistan

The Hindu Bureau
SRINAGAR

Three local people who were trying to cross into Pakistan were arrested near the Line of Control (LoC) in Baramulla district in north Kashmir on Sunday.

An Army spokesperson said two local youth were trying to exfiltrate from the Uri sector into Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. Their guide, a former Territorial Army jawan, was also apprehended.

“They were captured after a search operation was launched in the general area of Uri following specific intelligence inputs. Two people from Sopore were apprehended by troops while allegedly attempting to exfiltrate through the Uri sector along with their guide,” said the spokesperson. The Army added that a probe was under way.

High vigil: Army soldiers patrol along the Line of Control between Pakistan and India in Uri Sector, Jammu and Kashmir. IMRAN NISSAR

Intruder held

The Army, in a separate operation, arrested an intruder from PoK who was intercepted while crossing the LoC in Uri.

“Vigilant troops maintained restraint while challenging and apprehending the intruder. He has been handed over to the Jammu and Kashmir Police,” the Army said in a statement.

The man, identified as Zeeshan Ahmad Mir, a resident of Painkadi village in Muzaffarabad, allegedly intended to meet a local girl, Iram Bano, a resident of Tilawari, Uri. She was detained near the Silikote area of Uri. “Both are being questioned,” officials said. Officials said a love affair cannot be ruled out.

Power Minister tells Bengal departments to clear dues

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

During his recent visit to West Bengal, Union Minister for Power Manohar Lal Khattar called upon several government departments of the State to clear their pending dues. Mr. Lal also sought their transition to prepaid meters, sources said. To alleviate the pressure on discoms (distribution companies), Mr. Lal also sought a “robust mechanism” for regular settlement of dues.

Reviewing the progress of ‘smart metering’, Mr. Lal called for its expeditious implementation. The State is committed to saturating establishments with smart meters by June, and in the prepaid mode by August, sources said.

Dispute over eviction notice to Rabri Devi intensifies

Amit Bhelari
PATNA

The Opposition Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) on Sunday furnished another official letter from the Building Construction Department (BCD) allotting Minister Nandkishor Ram 10 Circular Road bungalow as official residence, the same bungalow that is now occupied by the former Chief Minister and Leader of the Opposition in the Bihar Legislative Council, Rabri Devi.

Ms. Devi, on Saturday, refused to vacate the building despite the BCD serving her a second notice, and challenged the Samrat Choudhary government to evict her from the bungalow. According to sources, the government has given Ms. Devi an ultimatum to vacate the house within 15 days.

The RJD had pointed out that Mr. Ram had initially been allotted the 21 Harding Road residence, as per a letter by the BCD on May 11. However, 15 days later, on May 27, another letter was issued, assigning the Circular Road house to him. The party questioned why the Minister had not moved into the house allotted to him on May 11. It also said that the Minister should ask the government about why his residence was being changed so many times.

Mr. Ram, speaking to presspersons on Saturday, alleged that Ms. Devi was not vacating the bungalow because he hailed from the Dalit community. "I feel that Rabri Devi *ji* gave the statement that she will not vacate the bungalow because I am Dalit. That is the only reason; there is no other reason," he said.

'Political narrative'

Sharing the letter from the BCD, RJD spokesperson Ejaz Ahmed alleged that the BJP compelled him to issue such a statement. "The Minister issued such a statement at the behest of the government, solely to set a political narrative"

"The Minister should clarify his stance, as his statements were a deliberate attempt to manipulate the political narrative," Mr. Ahmed said.

"To divert attention from public issues, Samrat Chaudhary's government is on the path of political vendetta," Rohini Acharya, Ms. Devi's daughter, said.

Rahul targets govt. during meet with CBSE students

Students deserve a brighter future, Cong. will ensure they get it, he says; questioning PM's silence, he alleges irregularities in scanning of Class 12 answer sheets; Jairam alleges data breach in system

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Listening to issues: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi interacting with a group of CBSE Class 12 students in New Delhi on Sunday. ANI

The Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, on Sunday sharpened his attack on the Centre and the CBSE over the On-Screen Marking (OSM) controversy, alleging that changes in tender conditions had enabled irregularities in the scanning of answer sheets and describing the episode as a "fraud".

Mr. Gandhi also posted a video of his interaction with a group of students affected by the controversy, describing it as a "revealing chat with my fellow 'anti-national Soros agents'."

In a post on X, Mr. Gandhi said the CBSE's May 2025 tender required answer sheets to be scanned with automatic robotic scanners, spines preserved, at a minimum of 300 DPI. The tender re-issued in August removed all of it and scanners became generic and resolution dropped to 200 DPI, so that COEMPT can be chosen as the vendor, he alleged.

"The blurred copies, the missing pages, the unscanned books – they are not 'errors'. They are the predictable outcome of a contract written to fit a vendor. This is fraud. And every child whose marks were wrongly evaluated is a victim of it," he said.

"This morning, the Prime Minister had time to speak about mangoes. He has not had time to speak about 18.5 lakh children whose answer sheets were scanned with phones. Dharmendra Pradhan*ji* still sits in office. Modi*ji*'s silence is no longer indifference. It is complicity," he added.

Sharing a video of his interaction with affected students, Mr. Gandhi said the students deserved a brighter future. "Vedant and his friends are brilliant, brave young Indians who asked the CBSE and the Modi government simple questions – but got insults instead of answers. They deserve a bright and secure future. We will make sure they get it," he said.

Viral claim

The controversy surfaced after Vedant, a Class 12 student, alleged in a post on X that the physics answer sheet uploaded by the CBSE during the revaluation process was not his. The claim went viral, prompting several other students to report similar mismatches.

In the video, Mr. Gandhi was seen speaking informally with Vedant and other students.

"You are students. You are asking for your answer sheets, that's all. Now, suddenly, you have become anti-nationals. You have to accept the problem if you have to solve the problem. You are refusing to accept the problem and blaming the 17-year-old kids and saying 'you are deep state, you are spies, terrorists'," Mr. Gandhi said in the clip.

COEMPT, the company that handled the OSM, has come under sustained attack from Mr. Gandhi, who alleged that the firm, formerly known as Globarena, had a controversial past in Telangana.

He demanded an independent judicial probe and an SIT inquiry into what he called the "entire scam", questioning why the firm was awarded the contract.

In a separate post, Congress communications chief Jairam Ramesh alleged a major data breach in the CBSE's Class 12 examination system, claiming that answer sheets of nearly two million students were available in the public domain.

"This is a data breach of monumental proportions and it compromises the privacy of two million students," he said, alleging that "the incompetence and callousness of COEMPT is once again exposed".

The Hindu Huddle panel to discuss AI and its impact

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Artificial Intelligence is the flavour of the times. It is not the preserve of technology geeks anymore, and it is impacting all our lives in ways known and unknown. Many of us already use AI models in our jobs and in our homes.

But AI and its impact on us is much more than this. Will AI eat away jobs, especially in the technology domain, where India employs almost six million professionals? Will AI create new jobs? Where is India in the race to lead AI transformation in the world? Do we have the technology backbone and infrastructure to support AI development in India? What is the government doing to ensure India does not get left behind in the AI race?

These are only a sample of the questions that will be answered in a panel discussion at The Hindu Huddle in Bangalore on June 6.

S. Krishnan, Secretary, Union Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology; V. Anantha Nageswaran, Chief Economic Adviser to the Government of India; and Lakshmi Narayanan, former CEO, Cognizant, and Chancellor, Krea University will huddle together to brainstorm some of the emerging issues in the field of AI, and its likely impact on jobs in India. The discussion will be moderated by Raghuvir Srinivasan, Editor, *The Hindu BusinessLine*.

Mr. Krishnan has been at the forefront of emerging government policy in the field of AI for over two years. He has been proactive in his position as the Union IT Secretary.

Mr. Anantha Nageswaran has carried out deep research on AI and its impact on jobs in India. The Economic Survey 2026, prepared by him and his team, dwells extensively on the subject of skilling and job creation in the AI era.

Mr. Lakshmi Narayanan is an astute observer of the emerging AI scenario and brings to bear considerable experience in the IT industry. He is also an active early stage investor and hence is updated on the latest in the industry.

The event is presented by the Sami-Sabinsa Group as the Presenting Partner. The event is co-powered by the Government of Telangana and held in association with Khaja Bandanawaz University. It is further supported by Bank of Baroda, Larsen & Toubro, Apollo Hospitals, IIM Sirmaur, ICFAI Group, TAFE, Wizzmoni, Associate Partners; Casagrand, Realty Partner; Toyota, Luxury Car partner; Amity University Bengaluru, University Partner;
Harrow International School Bengaluru, Education Partner; Meghalaya Tourism, State Partner; and NDTV 24x7, TV Partner.

Readers can register for the event by scanning the QR code. Limited seats available.

Five held for attack on Abhishek Banerjee; Kalyan Banerjee, MP, mobbed at Hooghly

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

Another attack: Trinamool Congress MP Kalyan Banerjee reacts after he was mobbed in Hooghly on Sunday. ANI

The West Bengal police arrested five people in connection with the attack on Trinamool Congress leader and MP Abhishek Banerjee on Sunday. Another Trinamool MP, Kalyan Banerjee, was mobbed in Hooghly district. The Opposition party has claimed that miscreants backed by the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party were behind both attacks.

According to the police, the arrests in the Abhishek Banerjee attack case came after a *suo motu* FIR was registered by the Sonarpur police station, as no formal complaint was registered by the Trinamool leader himself. A few others were also detained in connection with the attack, after the police examined the footage of the attack.

'Hit by hurled object'

In another development, Mr. Kalyan was mobbed at Chanditala in Hooghly district by a group shouting slogans. The veteran Trinamool leader claimed that he was hit on the head by an object and was then seen writhing in pain on the ground.

"Just 15 metres away from Chanditala Police Station, while I was on my way to submit a deputation, BJP-backed miscreants launched a violent attack on me. A hard object was hurled directly at my head, causing injuries to my head and pain in my chest," he said in a social media post. "Yesterday it was @abhishekaitc, today it is me. Such attacks will not intimidate us or force us into silence," he said, alleging that BJP supporters were behind the attack.

"We have always stood with the people and fought for their interests. We were on the streets yesterday, we are on the streets today, and we will remain there tomorrow – continuing our fight for the rights and welfare of ordinary citizens," he said.

Trinamool Congress chairperson Mamata Banerjee has alleged that the hospitals were pressured by police not to admit Mr. Abhishek. After a mob attacked him at Sonarpur, the Trinamool Congress general secretary was taken to two private hospitals in Kolkata and both the institutions refused admission to him on the grounds that the injuries were not serious in nature.

BJP leaders, on the other hand, described the attack as a reflection of public anger towards the Trinamool, even while condemning it.

"What happened to Abhishek Banerjee should not have happened," BJP leader and State Minister Dilip Ghosh said. However, he said, the people of West Bengal had endured "harassment" under the Trinamool government over the past 15 years, adding that "the anger inside the public has to show up somewhere".

West Bengal Cabinet expansion today; 35 Ministers to take oath

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

With this expansion today, the Cabinet strength in the State will rise to 41

Thirty-five Ministers will be sworn into the West Bengal Cabinet on Monday as the Cabinet headed by Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari is being expanded.

The Chief Minister confirmed the Cabinet expansion with a social media post. "Tomorrow, a full-fledged Council of Ministers of the elected nationalist government will be formed by the verdict of the people of West Bengal. For the purpose of expanding the Council of Ministers, 35 Ministers of the West Bengal government will take their oath," he said.

After the landslide victory in the West Bengal Assembly election, Mr. Adhikari and five other BJP MLAs – Dilip Ghosh, Agnimitra Paul, Ashok Kirtania, Nisith Pramanik and Kshudiram Tudu – were sworn in as Ministers by Governor R.N. Ravi on May 9.

With 35 more Ministers, the Cabinet strength (including the Chief Minister) will increase to 41. As per Article 164(1A) of the Constitution, the total number of Ministers, including the Chief Minister, in the Council of Ministers in a State shall not exceed 15%.

West Bengal has 294 seats in the Legislative Assembly and 15% of this number is 44. Therefore, the Council of Ministers can have a maximum of 44 members. The BJP has 208 MLAs in the 294-member House.

Possible contenders

Mr. Adhikari is likely to include senior party leaders like Tapas Roy, Sankar Ghosh and Swapan Dasgupta in his Cabinet. Former Barrackpore MP Arjun Singh and senior BJP leader Ritesh Tewari are also among the top contenders. Some women MLAs like Roopa Ganguly and Chandana Bauri may also be inducted.

Along with seniority, the BJP is likely to give considerations to regional and community-wise representations.

The party will have to ensure that all communities such as the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and women are represented in the first BJP Cabinet in the State. The Cabinet is likely to have representatives from north Bengal and south-west Bengal, something which was ignored by most of the earlier governments in West Bengal.

Trinamool Congress calls off meeting as three-fourths of its MLAs fail to turn up

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

Party attributes low turnout to the attack on party general secretary Abhishek Banerjee

A scheduled meeting of newly elected Trinamool Congress legislators was called off on Sunday after nearly three-fourths of the party's MLAs failed to turn up for the gathering.

The meeting was convened by Leader of the Opposition in the State Assembly Sobhandeb Chatterjee, and former Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee was likely to address the legislators. The Trinamool Congress has 80 MLAs in the newly elected Assembly, but only 20 came to attend the meeting at Ms. Banerjee's residence.

Trinamool spokesperson and Beleghata MLA Kunal Ghosh attributed the low turnout to the attack on party general secretary Abhishek Banerjee in Sonarpur on Saturday.

"After the attack on Abhishek Banerjee in Sonarpur, MLAs are busy with various programmes. Apart from this, Trinamool leaders and activists are being attacked in various areas and arrested in false cases. Several MLAs have been receiving calls since yesterday (Saturday) evening that in such a situation, it would be very good if the date of the meeting is changed," he said.

Those present at Ms. Banerjee's residence included former Speaker Biman Banerjee; Kamarhati MLA Madan Mitra; Palashipara legislator Rukbanur Rahman; Buzbuz MLA Ashok Deb; Panchla MLA Gulshan Mallick; Maltipur MLA Abdul Rahim Bakshi; and Kumarganj legislator Toraf Hossain Mandal.

Big challenge

After the Trinamool's defeat in the Assembly elections, the biggest challenge for the party has been to keep its flock together. Several MLAs have started blaming the party leadership for the loss and are reportedly warming up to the BJP. The BJP leadership, however, has so far ruled out the possibility of inducting defectors.

Assam's Council of Ministers will be expanded on June 5, says Himanta Biswa Sarma

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

Himanta Biswa Sarma

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said on Sunday that the Council of Ministers would be expanded on June 5.

Assam can have a maximum of 19 Ministers, including the Chief Minister, as Article 164(1A) of the Constitution limits the size of the Council to 15% of the total number of seats in a State Assembly. Assam has a 126-member Assembly.

"I am pleased to inform that the Council of Ministers of the Government of Assam will be expanded on June 5, 2026," the Chief Minister announced on X. He did not specify the number of Ministers, or name anyone.

Mr. Sarma and four others took the oath of office on May 12. The others are Ajanta Neog and Rameswar Teli of the Bharatiya Janata Party, Atul Bora of the Asom Gana Parishad (AGP), and Charan Boro of the Bodoland People's Front (BPF).

The BJP won 82 seats in the April 9 Assembly election. Its two regional allies, the AGP and the BPF, won 10 each. Before he took charge as the Chief Minister for the second successive term, Mr. Sarma said the State would eventually have 18 or 19 Ministers. This indicated that the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance government would take time to fill the quota.

According to BJP leaders close to the Chief Minister, his Council of Ministers would have a mix of experienced and new faces. However, it was unclear whether the BJP would accommodate more than one Minister from each of its two allies.

A section within the BJP wants most of the ministerial berths for party MLAs, especially after it won 18 seats more than the majority mark of 64.

HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT ALLAHABAD

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INBRIEF

BJP wins 3 of 4 Himachal civic bodies, Congress retains one

In a major jolt to the Congress, the BJP won Mandi, Dharamshala and Solan municipal corporation elections, while the ruling party managed to retain its mandate in the Palampur civic body. The BJP termed the election outcome a "public referendum" in favour of the saffron party. However, Congress leader Naresh Chauhan said the polls involving about 15% of the State's electorate could not determine the broader public mandate. The elections to the four urban local bodies were held on May 17, and the results were declared on Sunday. The contest assumed significance as Himachal Pradesh is headed for Assembly polls due in 2027. PTI

CUET-UG 2026 exam held smoothly across centres

The rescheduled Common University Entrance Test-Undergraduate (CUET-UG) was conducted smoothly on Sunday across hundreds of examination centres after certain tests scheduled for May 28 were postponed due to Id, an NTA source said. The National Testing Agency (NTA) conducted the rescheduled CUET-UG 2026 examination in two shifts at centres across the country and overseas. The smooth conduct of the examination comes a day after a technical glitch at some centres delayed the start of Shift-I of the CUET-UG 2026. The NTA later announced a re-examination for 3,765 affected candidates.

Doval holds talks with Myanmar President

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

National Security Adviser Ajit Doval on Sunday met Myanmar's President U Min Aung Hlaing and discussed key issues relating to bilateral ties.

Mr. Hlaing, who is on a five-day trip to India, is scheduled to hold wide-ranging talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday, focusing on ramping up ties in trade, connectivity, border security and defence.

Mr. Hlaing's visit to India comes less than two months after he became the President following Myanmar's parliamentary elections. The elections were held in December and January, after years of protests against the ruling military-junta that seized power in a coup on February 1, 2021, overthrowing the democratically elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi.

Myanmar is one of India's strategic neighbours and shares a 1,640-kilometre-long border with a number of northeastern States, including militancy-hit Nagaland and Manipur.

Mr. Hlaing will also travel to Mumbai on June 2 for business interactions.

Mann Ki Baat: PM praises athletes, changemakers

He praised Indian sprinters Gurindervir Singh and Animesh Kujur; lauded mango farmers for reaching global markets; shared story of educator Girija Amma for raising funds for soldiers

Saurabh Trivedi
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in the 134th episode of *Mann Ki Baat* on Sunday, highlighted India's achievements in sports, environmental conservation, cultural heritage, and scientific learning, while urging citizens to continue contributing towards nation-building through innovation, community participation, and social responsibility.

A major highlight of the address was the Prime Minister's praise for Indian sprinters Gurindervir Singh and Animesh Kujur, who delivered historic performances at the Federation Cup in Ranchi.

During a telephone interaction with the athletes, Mr. Modi lauded their dedication and the spirit of healthy competition that has helped elevate Indian athletics.

Mr. Singh recently became India's fastest man after clocking a remarkable 10.09 seconds in the 100-metre sprint, becoming the first Indian athlete to break the 10.10-second barrier.

> Today, through *Mann Ki Baat*, I want to praise my farmer brothers and sisters involved in mango cultivation. You are not just ordinary farmers; you are playing a significant role in strengthening the nation's agricultural economy
>
> **NARENDRA MODI**
> Prime Minister

Praising mango farmers

Speaking about the summer season, Mr. Modi said mangoes remain an inseparable part of Indian households and culture. He praised farmers engaged in mango cultivation and highlighted how Indian mangoes are increasingly reaching global markets.

"Today, through *Mann Ki Baat*, I want to praise my farmer brothers and sisters involved in mango cultivation. You are not just ordinary farmers; you are playing a significant role in strengthening the nation's agricultural economy," the Prime Minister said.

Reflecting on his recent visit to the Netherlands, the Prime Minister described it as a significant step in strengthening India's international partnerships. He also spoke about the return of rare Chola era copper plates by the country, describing them as invaluable historical treasures that offer insights into the maritime strength, governance, and international relations of the Chola empire.

Mr. Modi also underlined the importance of environmental conservation and highlighted efforts to protect the endangered Ganga river dolphin.

He called upon citizens to actively participate in preserving biodiversity and natural ecosystems.

The Prime Minister urged people and local administrations to remain vigilant during heatwaves and work collectively to minimise their impact.

He also appreciated grassroots initiatives such as the work of Saji Valasheril in Kerala, who has trained thousands of people, including children with disabilities, through swimming programmes.

Astronomy initiatives

Encouraging scientific curiosity among young people, Mr. Modi highlighted astronomy outreach initiatives by organisations such as Astro Kerala, the Bangalore Astronomical Society, and the Big Bang Astronomy Club of Rajkot.

He said astronomy has long fascinated Indians and can inspire the next generation of scientists and innovators.

The Prime Minister concluded by sharing the inspiring story of educator Girija Amma, whose initiative of collecting one rupee daily from students for soldiers raised nearly ₹40 lakh, calling it a shining example of patriotism and collective responsibility towards the nation.

U.K. Foreign Secretary to visit India and China for talks

Press Trust of India
LONDON

U.K. Foreign Secretary Yvette Cooper will travel to China on Monday before a visit to India on a two-nation tour focused on tackling global challenges and bolstering cooperation.

The Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) said the ministerial engagements with the two major powers are expected to cover the situation in the Strait of Hormuz, Russia's invasion of Ukraine and the Ebola outbreak in Africa.

Ms. Cooper is scheduled to hold bilateral talks with External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on Thursday, followed by interactions across business and academia.

"The Foreign Secretary will be in India, where she will meet External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar and entrepreneurs, academics and government partners who are delivering on the U.K.-India Vision 2035," the FCDO said.

Her visit to Delhi comes nearly a year after the bilateral Free Trade Agreement was signed off by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his U.K. counterpart, Keir Starmer, last July.

Human trafficking can't be separated from broader migration flows, says SC

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has drawn a close link between migration and human trafficking, which it described as one of the worst forms of human exploitation. A journey in search of dignified livelihood often descends into a nightmare, mostly for women, and even children, the court said.

A Bench of Justices J.B. Pardiwala and R. Mahadevan highlighted how "systemic inequalities transform a survival strategy into a pathway of exploitation". While not all migration was trafficking, the latter phenomenon rarely occurred in the absence of migration, the court said.

"For a large majority of this country's population, migration is a survival and livelihood strategy; the structural vulnerabilities that drive such movement

"For a large majority of the population, migration is a survival and livelihood strategy"

also create conditions conducive to coercion and deception... Trafficking cannot be separated from broader migration flows. Rather, it emerges from within them," Justice Pardiwala said in a 297-page judgment pronounced on May 29, and released during the weekend.

The judgment further addressed the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act or the ITPA's failure to accord rights and protections to voluntary adult sex workers. The silence of the statute, Justice Pardiwala observed, had only made the deep social stigma against them louder. This, the court said, had resulted in voluntary adult sex workers being isolated, marginalised, and unable to access protections that the law otherwise extends to them.

It said a meaningful starting point would be for the government to recognise the rights of voluntary adult sex workers and provide them adequate protections. "The rights of sex workers can exist without there being a right to sex work," Justice Pardiwala wrote. The court flagged the need for the Union government to re-examine the conflation between sex trafficking and sex work in the legislative framework.

It said Section 143 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita requires that for an act of sexual exploitation to amount to trafficking, it has to fulfil the three-tiered framework of act, means, and purpose of the Palermo Protocol. But, on the other hand, all sex work was treated as trafficking under the ITPA. Section 143 mandates that the "act of bringing a person towards prostitution must have been done through one of the specified 'means', such as force, coercion, inducement, or deception, for it to constitute trafficking... The ITPA, on the other hand, operates on a fundamentally different logic. The ITPA requires no such 'means'... Under the ITPA, all prostitution involving third parties is, in effect, treated as trafficking for commercial sexual exploitation, regardless of whether any force, coercion, or inducement was employed", the court pointed out.

The court also highlighted that the ITPA tends to harass the very victims it was meant to protect. Moreover, the Act does not expressly exclude children from its ambit. Both these factors must be looked into by the legislature, Justice Pardiwala said.

BJP to host team of Nepal ruling party in an outreach to Balendra government

Nistula Hebbar
NEW DELHI

A five-member delegation of Nepal's ruling party, the Rastriya Swatantra Party (RSP), under the leadership of its chairperson, Rabi Lamichhane, will visit India from Monday at the specific invitation of BJP president Nitin Nabin.

A statement released by the BJP giving out details of this visit said Mr. Lamichhane and the delegation would visit the party headquarters and hold meeting with Mr. Nabin and senior BJP leaders.

The visit assumes significance as it comes days after the cancellation of Indian Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri's proposed visit to Kathmandu. It is believed that Mr. Misri, who was due to visit Nepal on May 12, cancelled his visit after no assurance was

Rabi Lamichhane

forthcoming over a meeting with Nepal's Prime Minister Balendra Shah.

The meeting between the two ruling parties of India and Nepal therefore is being viewed as an effort to increase the political conversation between New Delhi and Kathmandu.

"The visit seeks to initiate party-to-party engagement between the RSP and the BJP and provide an opportunity for exchange of views on organisational practices, democratic processes, and people-centric political outreach," the BJP release said, adding that the party looked forward to a "constructive dialogue".

Mr. Lamichhane will also be making a personal visit to Ayodhya, the RSP said in a statement. The other members of the delegation are Bipin Kumar Acharya (joint general secretary of RSP and member of the House of Representatives), Deepak Bohora (secretariat member and member of the House of Representatives), Nikita Poudel, and Pradip Acharya.

The visit also comes a day after Nepal Prime Minister Balendra Shah said that Nepal too had encroached upon some Indian territories, an unprecedented claim made by any Nepali government.

The Voice of Hind Rajab likely to get 'A' certificate

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Voice of Hind Rajab, the critically acclaimed 2025 film on the killing of the eponymous Palestinian five-year-old by Israeli forces, is set to be cleared by the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) with an 'A' certificate, say official sources.

This comes weeks after the Kaouther Ben Hania directorial was rejected for supposedly being detrimental to India-Israel relations.

The misgivings of the initial advisory panel drew censure from film-makers, actors, activists and the Opposition.

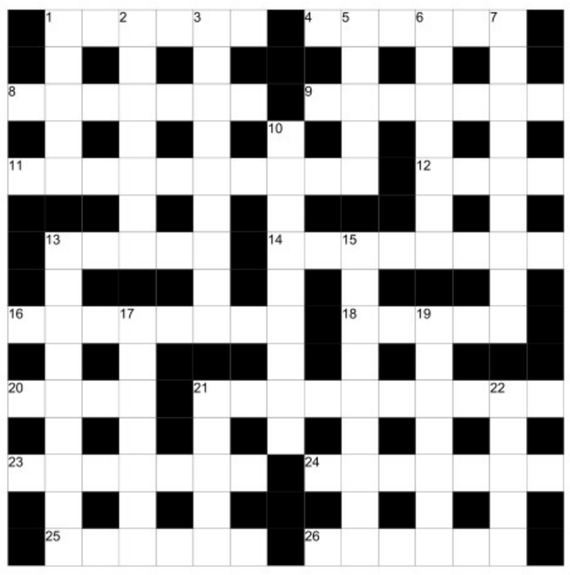
For the film to release, the CBFC will have to issue the certificate on its website (a step yet to be completed), and hand over the certificate to the film distributor.

CROSSWORD + 14808

(set by Gridzilla)

Solve this puzzle online and access more puzzles at *https://thehindu.com/crosswords*

SCAN TO PLAY



ACROSS

1. Cream is a baker's need, we hear (6)
4. Chapter out of Africa's wild expedition (6)
8. Taxes: they actually regulate imports from foreign soil, for starters (7)
9. Body builder banned from all contests? (7)
11. Worst place underground is mentioned in the Bible perhaps (10)
12. Cheese is arranged on the counter (4)
13. Upon reflection, will US omit invading city in Iraq? (5)
14. That's enough of kinky photos on sex (2,4,2)
16. Plant a kiss oddly on the mobile (8)
18. Small fish primarily found in river from the east (5)
20. Mount Washington's captivating! (4)
21. How to make the man say "We are the champions"? (4,6)
23. Study 'Introduction to Therapeutics' first, to become a doctor (7)
24. Let go and hire again (7)
25. Singular case, partly reviewed, is of lower back (6)
26. Fancy saree with a little red slip remover (6)

DOWN

1. Case of butter placed in empty fridge (5)
2. Without hesitation, runs to snort a bit of illicit drugs (7)
3. Reduces cost for American permits (9)
5. Shift is a key at the far ends of the typewriter (5)
6. Ogre ate bananas? Okay! (5,2)
7. Man-made reservation has no lake (9)
10. A weapon having little benefit? (9)
13. According to Spooner, to lock the dining room would be perfect (9)
15. Cry with hatred, as emotions initially go haywire (4,1,4)
17. Tight necktie almost chokes one on the move (7)
19. Pops down after scoring ecstasy (7)
21. Some fear a stalker...a dreaded one (5)
22. Belgian artist got high consuming narcotics primarily in retreat (5)

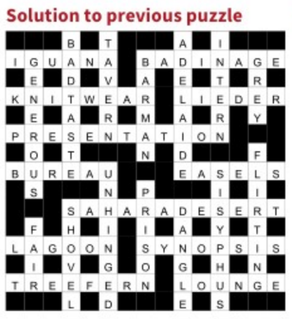
SUDOKU

		2	6		7		8	
		9		8				
5		1		4	2			
		7				4	3	
8								2
	3	5				8		
			4	1		7		6
				2		3		
	1		9		6	5		

No.SS6898 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★☆☆

Solution to previous puzzle



Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

5	2	9	6	3	7	1	8	4
1	8	6	4	9	5	2	3	7
4	3	7	1	2	8	5	6	9
8	1	3	9	5	6	4	7	2
7	9	4	2	1	3	8	5	6
6	5	2	7	8	4	9	1	3
9	6	5	8	7	2	3	4	1
2	7	8	3	4	1	6	9	5
3	4	1	5	6	9	7	2	8

FAITH

7-stage spiritual progression

Sri Desika Srinivasa Tathacharya Swami explained the significance of the divine name *Mahakramaha*, which occurs as the 676th name in the Vishnu Sahasranama and appears in the 72nd sloka. The word *Mahakramaha* means "the One who proceeds through a great and systematic order." In his celebrated commentary on the Vishnu Sahasranama, Sri Parasara Bhattar explains that the Lord follows a definite sequence in extending His divine grace and connection toward bound souls. This spiritual progression unfolds through seven stages. The first step is *Advesha* – not developing hatred or animosity towards God. The second stage is Astikyam – cultivating firm faith that God truly exists and that He alone protects and guides us through life. The third stage is *Abhimukhyam* – directing one's thoughts, words, and actions towards God and gradually turning inward toward spiritual life. The fourth is *Anuvarthanam* – following and associating with the devotees of God. Noble company refines the mind and leads one toward righteousness and devotion. From such association arises the fifth stage, *Jnanam* – true knowledge about God, His auspicious qualities, compassion, and supremacy. When knowledge matures, the sixth stage, *Bhakti*, naturally blossoms. Devotion becomes continuous.

Finally comes *Visrambham*, the stage of complete trust and total absorption in God. This culminates in *Parama Bhakti*, the highest form of devotion, in which the devotee longs only for union with Lord and ultimately attains Him. Thus, the compassionate Lord Himself gently elevates the soul step by step toward liberation through this magnificent divine order called *Mahakramaha*.

Home loan benefits for women

Santosh Agarwal

The lending ecosystem - banks/HFCs, regulator and the Government - have over the last decade unveiled several sops to encourage the participation of women borrowers in formal credit, particularly in home ownership. From preferential interest rates to tax and stamp duty benefits, these sops can significantly boost affordability and make home loan journey more advantageous for women borrowers and households.

Being aware and understanding the benefits on offer, however, is key.

Relatively lower rates

Interest rate concession on home loans is the most significant benefit for women borrowers. Many lenders usually offer a concession of 5-10 bps on interest rates to women, saving substantially over the loan tenure. Note, even a slight cut in interest rates can save lakhs in total loan cost, thereby, increasing loan affordability.

For instance, taking advantage of a 5 bps concession on a ₹50 lakh loan at 8.45% interest rate from SBI for 30 years, women borrowers can save about ₹63,632 in total interest cost.

Reduced stamp duty charges

Many State governments have cut stamp duty charges for women resulting in huge savings, especially for high-value properties. States, including UP, Haryana, Maharashtra and Delhi levy 1%-2% lower stamp duty on such loans compared to men, thereby encouraging more women to become property owners.

A woman borrower from Delhi can get a concession of up to ₹1 lakh on the property value of ₹50 lakh.

Tax benefits fully applicable

Borrowers continue to avail tax sops offered by the Income Tax Department under the old tax regime. A deduction of up to ₹1.5 lakh can be claimed under Sec. 80C for the principal paid and up to ₹2 lakh on the interest paid under Sec. 24(b). For joint loans – for instance by spouses – benefits can be claimed individually, enhancing total tax savings.

Subsidy under PMAY 2.0

Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojna (PMAY) provides special benefits to women, promoting home ownership, financial independence and long-term security. Under PMAY 2.0, female ownership is encouraged and in categories such as EWS and LIG having woman co-owner is mandatory to avail benefits.

As proposed in 2026, eligible borrowers can get subsidies of up to ₹1.80 lakh resulting in lower EMIs and reduced interest cost.

Better chances of loan approval

A woman borrower applying jointly with the spouse or a family member not only boosts loan eligibility but also raises loan-approval chances. This works well if the woman is an earning member contributing to household income. Dual income households are seen as lower risk by the lenders. Note, the woman co-borrower should also be the co-owner of the property.

Improved creditworthiness

Owning a property via home loan not only gives long-term financial security to women but also builds their credit profile. This makes it easier for them to access credit in the future on better terms. Lower EMIs, as a result of women co- or sole borrowers boost loan affordability and cut chances of missing repayments. This reduces the instances of default thereby improving creditworthiness.

Navigating smoothly

While several benefits make the loans more accessible for women, informed decision-making is critical. From comparing offers, understanding eligibility, checking EMI affordability to being aware of tax and other benefits can help maximise savings.

As more women emerge as primary borrowers and asset owners, they would play a crucial role in expanding the home-loan market and building inclusiveness.

(The writer is CEO, Paisabazaar)

Send queries on personal finance and investing to the moneywise@thehindu.co.in ID. Our experts in personal finance will respond to select queries, but will not give specific recommendations for investment in a particular mutual fund, share or fixed deposit.

ILLUSTRATION- SAAI

The prisoner who builds his own cell

Cave grows grander, yet Man Midas does not realise he is wearing golden handcuffs; he earns, spends more; in the endless game of lifestyle upgrades, he stops living, begins merely maintaining

GOLDEN HANDCUFFS

Vaishali R. Venkat

Days pass, but Man Midas never finds peace. The cave's grandeur that once was his pride, fills him with dread. What was once a dream has transformed into a burden he can no longer carry easily. Every possession needs upkeep, every upgrade adds another brick to the invisible walls trapping him inside and every sunrise carries an anxiety: what if it all collapses? Midas runs harder simply to stand in the same place.

After observing Midas in silence, Alien Aurum turns to Monk Moneywise and murmurs, "Midas no longer builds a life. He looks like a prisoner, trapped inside the very cage he built."

Monk Moneywise nods, "True Aurum, the trap begins when humans expand standard of living, blurring the line between need and luxury. Extravagance becomes ordinary and options necessities. A cycle turns into a bike which evolves into a small car to finally mature as a sedan."

"With each upgrade, fuel cost, insurance premia and EMIs multiply quietly. Bigger homes turn bigger EMIs, posh schools bring higher fee, club memberships bills, household help is the norm, foreign holidays are rituals. Comfort slowly hardens into financial obligation. Though Midas' income rises, even one interruption in earnings now threatens the entire life built around it."

> "Humans often stay trapped in lives that no longer bring joy because leaving feels like erasing every sacrifice once made to build them"

Alien Aurum asks in bewilderment, "Mr. Moneywise, if a family of two needs just a small place to eat and sleep, why do they spend entire lives paying for four or five big rooms?"

Imagined future

Gazing towards the distant human dwellings, Monk Moneywise whispers, "Homes disclose some of the deepest truths about human life. Humans build houses not just for today, but for imagined futures: visiting relatives, children who may settle abroad, grandchildren who may never arrive, prestige and the deep fear of appearing small before the society. The tragedy is rarely the size of the house, but the weight of the imagined future they purchase along with it."

Alien Aurum interrupts, "Weight of the imagined future?"

Nodding gently, the monk explains, "Humans spend decades buying a house believing one day they will finally be relieved of monthly rental burdens. Yet, the irony shows itself years later. For instance, in the gated communities.

> "Whether apartment is lived in or empty sans tenants, maintenance costs keep rising every month, often running into several thousands."

Even after fully owning the flat, charges never truly stop. Whether the apartment is lived in, locked for months, or empty without tenants for years, maintenance charges continue arriving month on month, often running into several thousands. The tragedy deepens further with age."

Alien Aurum cuts in and asks Monk Moneywise, "The tragedy deepens with age? How?"

Mr. Moneywise continues, "Aurum, many elderly residents no longer regularly use the swimming pools, clubhouses or luxury amenities they once proudly paid for, yet the maintenance charges never disappear. During salaried years, these costs appear harmless. But after retirement, the shock slowly emerges. They now have to keep paying significant money monthly simply to continue living inside a house they already fully own but not fully use."

Buried exhaustion

Years of buried exhaustion suddenly erupt through Midas. "Enough of your theories and sermons! It's been years of struggle and do you know what all I have sacrificed to build all these? Missed family moments, sleepless nights, health slowly breaking down, dreams postponed and what not. It's easy for you to mock me. But how can I simply walk away? If I let go of this life, then what is all that pain even for? Every sleepless night and every sacrifice goes into bins? We cannot bleed for something our entire lives and then simply let it go."

Now Master Time interrupts saying, "That pain you cannot let go of, Midas, has a name. Behavioural economists call it the sunk-cost fallacy: humans often stay trapped in lives that no longer bring joy because leaving feels like erasing every sacrifice once made to build them."

Crucial questions

Time's voice echoes across the silent valley, "Before every upgrade ask yourself: Can I sustain this if my income falls? Will this matter to me ten years from now? Am I buying this for need or status? What are the recurring charges even after the excitement fades? Am I buying for the present life or the imagined future? Am I here because I want this life, or because leaving it now feels too costly? If Midas had asked these questions before every purchase, he would have built a life not a cage and the golden handcuffs would never have found a wrist to bind itself upon."

(The writer is an NISM & CRISIL-certified Wealth Manager and certified in NISM's Research Analyst module)

Gold dips, silver rises

PRECIOUSMETALS

Both gold and silver are still range bound; while there can be a short-term bounce in the prices of the precious metals, there are no signs yet of any resumption of the longer-term uptrend

B. Krishnakumar

It was a mixed bag for precious metals in May. While gold prices lost sheen in May and slid to a 2-month low before recovering towards the end of the month, silver managed to hold ground. The uncertainty around the conflict in the Middle East had a key role in keeping precious metals price under check.

Comex gold closed 1.43% lower to $4,569.9 by May end. Comex silver gained 1.8% to settle at $75.58.

The performance of the metals in the local market was much better owing to weakening of the Rupee against the U.S. Dollar and the rise in the import duty on gold and silver.

MCX Gold gained 4.3% to ₹1,61,049 per 10-gram. MCX Silver closed on a positive note at ₹2,67,000 a kilogram, representing a 9.14% gain last month.

Comex gold price continues to oscillate within the extremes of the $4,400-$5,650 range. The price has consolidated for a while now and a trending move can start soon. Considering the medium to long term trend is still positive, an upside breakout is likely.

As long as Comex gold price sustains above $4,310, expect a rally to immediate target of $4,650-$4,720. The next higher targets are at $4,790-$4,830. A drop below $4,300 would warrant reassessment of the medium-term positive outlook.

Comex silver price too is stuck in $71-$90 range for the past few weeks. The long-term uptrend in silver would resume only after a breakout above $92. Until then, expect volatile price action within the $71-$90 range.

As anticipated last month, MCX gold price touched the short-term target of ₹1,53,000-₹1,55,000. Except for a big spike post import duty hike, gold price was largely listless in the local market. The price is still confined within the broad range of ₹1,45,000-₹1,75,000. Only a breakout from this range would trigger the next big directional move in gold.

MCX silver price too spiked up post import duty hike but cooled off in the past few weeks. Though there is a possibility of the price heading to the short-term target of ₹2,80,000-₹2,80,500, expect a meaningful uptrend to resume only after a breakout above ₹3,10,000. A drop below ₹2,03,000 would weaken the medium-term outlook for silver.

Conclusion

Both gold and silver are still range bound while the long-term trend stays positive. While there can be a short-term bounce in precious metal prices, there are no signs yet of any resumption of longer-term uptrend.

(The author is a Chennai-based analyst/trader. Views and opinion here are based on an analysis of short-term price movements in gold and silver futures at COMEX & Multi Commodity Exchange of India. This is not meant to be a trading/investment advice.)

Bank Fixed Deposit Rates

Bank Name	Interest Rates (%) Highest Slab	1-year Tenure	3-year Tenure	5-year Tenure
Small Finance Banks				
AU Small Finance Bank	7.25	6.35	7.25	6.75
Equitas Small Finance Bank	7.40	6.90	7.00	7.00
ESAF Small Finance Bank	7.75	4.75	6.00	5.75
Jana Small Finance Bank	8.11	7.00	7.50	7.77
Shivalik Small Finance Bank	7.80	6.00	6.75	6.25
slice Small Finance Bank	7.75	6.25	7.50	7.00
Suryoday Small Finance Bank	8.10	7.25	7.25	7.90
Ujjivan Small Finance Bank	7.45	7.25	7.20	7.20
Utkarsh Small Finance Bank	8.10	6.00	7.50	7.00
Private Sector Banks				
Axis Bank	6.45	6.25	6.45	6.45
Bandhan Bank	7.25	7.00	7.25	5.85
City Union Bank	7.00	6.50	6.50	6.25
CSB Bank	7.35	5.00	5.75	5.75
DBS Bank	6.85	6.30	6.40	6.25
DCB Bank	7.25	6.90	7.00	7.25
Federal Bank	6.75	6.25	6.75	6.40
HDFC Bank	6.50	6.25	6.45	6.40
ICICI Bank	6.50	6.25	6.45	6.50
IDFC FIRST Bank	7.25	6.50	7.25	7.15
IndusInd Bank	7.00	6.75	6.90	6.65
Jammu & Kashmir Bank	7.25	6.75	6.65	6.60
IDBI Bank	6.50	6.20	6.35	6.25
Karnataka Bank	6.75	6.50	6.15	6.15
Kotak Mahindra Bank	6.80	6.50	6.40	6.25
RBL Bank	7.20	7.00	7.20	6.70
SBM Bank India	7.30	7.10	7.10	7.00
South Indian Bank	6.80	6.25	6.20	5.70
Tamilnad Mercantile Bank	7.25	6.80	6.70	6.70
YES Bank	7.00	6.65	7.00	6.75
Public Sector Banks				
Bank of Baroda	6.45	6.25	6.25	6.30
Bank of India	6.70	6.50	6.70	6.00
Bank of Maharashtra	6.65	6.20	5.25	5.00
Canara Bank	6.60	6.25	6.25	6.25
Central Bank of India	6.65	6.10	6.00	6.00
Indian Bank	6.60	6.10	6.05	6.00
Indian Overseas Bank	6.60	6.50	6.10	6.10
Punjab National Bank	6.60	6.25	6.30	6.10
Punjab & Sind Bank	6.75	5.85	5.85	5.95
State Bank of India	6.45	6.25	6.30	6.05
Union Bank of India	6.60	6.25	6.20	6.00

Home Loan Interest Rates

Name of Lender	Loan Amount (Rs.) Upto 30 lakh	Above 30 lakh & upto 75 lakh	Above 75 lakh
			(In %)
Public Sector Banks			
State Bank of India	7.25-9.05	7.25-9.05	7.25-9.05
Bank of Baroda	7.20-9.00	7.20-9.00	7.20-9.25
Union Bank of India*	7.15-9.60	7.15-9.60	7.15-9.60
Punjab National Bank	7.25-9.25	7.20-9.15	7.20-9.15
Bank of India	7.10-10.00	7.10-10.00	7.10-10.25
Bank of Maharashtra	7.10-9.90	7.10-9.90	7.10-9.90
Punjab and Sind Bank	7.30-10.70	7.30-10.70	7.30-10.70
Indian Overseas Bank	7.10 #	7.10 #	7.10 #
Indian Bank	7.15-9.55	7.15-9.55	7.15-9.55
Central Bank of India	7.10-9.15	7.10-9.15	7.10-9.15
Private Sector Banks			
Kotak Mahindra Bank	7.60 #	7.60 #	7.60 #
ICICI Bank	7.50 #	7.50 #	7.50 #
Axis Bank	8.00-11.90	8.00-11.90	8.00 - 9.10
HSBC Bank	7.45 #	7.45 #	7.45 #
South Indian Bank	7.20 #	7.20 #	7.20 #
Karur Vysya Bank	8.50-10.65	8.50-10.65	8.50-10.65
Karnataka Bank	7.31-11.69	7.31-11.69	7.31-11.69
Federal Bank	8.30 - 10.75	7.30 - 10.75	7.30 - 9.75
Tamilnad Mercantile Bank	7.90 - 9.30	7.90 - 9.30	7.90 - 9.30
Bandhan Bank	8.41-13.38	8.41-13.38	8.41-13.38
RBL Bank	8.20 #	8.20 #	8.20 #
CSB Bank	8.30 #	8.30 #	8.30 #
HDFC Bank	7.75 #	7.75 #	7.75 #
City Union Bank	8.25-9.50	8.50-10.00	8.75-10.50
Housing Finance Companies (HFCs)			
LIC Housing Finance	7.15 #	7.15 #	7.15 #
Bajaj Housing Finance	7.25 #	7.25 #	7.25 #
Tata Capital	8.00 #	8.00 #	8.00 #
PNB Housing Finance	7.50 #	7.50 #	7.50 #
GIC Housing Finance	8.20 #	8.20 #	8.20 #
SMFG India Home Finance	9.35 #	9.35 #	9.35 #
Sammaan Capital	8.75 #	8.75 #	8.75 #
Aditya Birla Capital	7.75 #	7.75 #	7.75 #
ICICI Home Finance	7.50 #	7.50 #	7.50 #
Godrej Housing Finance	7.65 #	7.65 #	7.65 #

*Extra 0.05% concession to borrowers taking insurance policy
Rates as on May 27 #onwards Source:Paisabazaar.com

LOS ANGELES

U.S. chemical spill toll rises to 11 as rescuers find bodies of 9 missing

REUTERS

The death toll from a chemical spill at a paper plant in Washington state has risen to 11 as rescuers recovered the bodies of all nine missing people, U.S. authorities said on Saturday. A huge tank holding lakhs of litres of a highly caustic substance imploded on Tuesday at the plant in Longview, Washington state. AFP

PARIS

780 arrested, deadly road accident in riotous PSG victory celebrations

AFP

French authorities announced on Sunday that 780 people were arrested across the country when overnight celebrations of Paris Saint-Germain's Champions League victory over Arsenal were marred by violent clashes, and a road accident that killed a young man. Interior Minister said that 57 security forces were injured. AFP

BUCHAREST

Romania identifies drone behind apartment block strike as Russian

AFP

Further analysis of a drone that smashed into a Romanian apartment building, sparking furious condemnation of Russia, has shown that it undoubtedly came from Moscow's forces, Bucharest said on Sunday. "The drone that crashed Thursday in Galati is a Geran-2, of Russian origin," President Nicusor Dan said. AFP

CARACAS

Venezuela Opposition candidate who claimed 2024 win backs vote

AFP

Venezuela's Edmundo Gonzalez Urrutia, the Opposition candidate who was recognised by the United States and others as the actual winner of the 2024 election against Nicolas Maduro, called on Saturday for a new vote. The 76-year-old who is living in exile in Spain, also expressed support for Maria Corina Machado. AFP

Israel captures Beaufort castle in Lebanon in its deepest incursion

Defence Minister Katz says Israel will hold the site while targeting 'thousands more homes' and Hezbollah infrastructure in southern Lebanon; the 12th century Crusader-built castle overlooks Litani river and has long-standing strategic importance

Associated Press
BEIRUT

Israeli troops have captured a strategic mountain topped with a Crusader-built castle in southern Lebanon in the deepest incursion into the country in more than a quarter-century, the military said on Sunday.

The capture of Beaufort castle, near the city of Nabatiyeh, came after days of air strikes and intense fighting in nearby villages where Israeli troops fought Hezbollah members in the rugged area.

Its capture marks a major development in the latest Israel-Hezbollah war, which began on March 2 when Hezbollah fired rockets into northern Israel two days after the U.S. and Israel attacked its main backer, Iran.

Holding down the fort: Israeli soldiers operate at Beaufort Ridge in southern Lebanon on Sunday. REUTERS

"The occupation of Beaufort is a dramatic stage and a dramatic shift in the policies we are leading," Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said. Defence Minister Israel Katz wrote on X that they raised an Israeli flag over the castle. Israeli troops previously captured the castle in 1982 and held it until they withdrew from Lebanon in 2000.

"Twenty six years after the withdrawal from the security zone in Lebanon, the Israeli flag has returned to fly on the peaks that overlook the Galilee towns," Mr. Katz said at a memorial ceremony for Israeli soldiers killed in its previous occupation of southern Lebanon.

Mr. Katz said Israel intends to hold the castle as its troops work to destroy thousands more homes that he says were used by Hezbollah and other military infrastructure in southern Lebanon.

The Beaufort fortress, perched high atop Lebanon's rolling green hills and overlooking the Litani River, has been a strategic military asset for centuries.

Built as a Crusader castle around the 12th century on top of previous fortifications, it has also been used by Saladin's Jerusalem army, Mamluks, Ottomans, the French mandate, the Palestine Liberation Organisation and the Israeli military until 2000, when it was partially restored and opened to visitors.

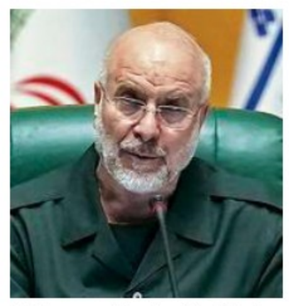
Iran says it doesn't trust U.S. as Trump toughens terms

Agence France-Presse
TEHRAN

Iran's chief negotiator warned the United States is not to be trusted on Sunday, saying Tehran would not agree to any deal with Washington unless it fully secures Iranian rights.

Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf's remarks came as reports emerged that U.S. President Donald Trump had sent a tougher peace proposal back to Iran, and underlined the rift that the parties still need to close.

Any further tweaks to the draft could further delay an agreement to formally end the West Asia war and reopen the Strait of Hormuz after weeks of fraught negotiations marked by sharp rhetoric and occasional flare-ups of violence. Iran was already in negotiations with the United States about the fate of its nuclear programme in February, when the U.S. and Israel launched air and missile strikes that wiped out much of the Islamic republic's senior leadership.



Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf

And, while Tehran has long insisted that its nuclear programme is for purely civilian ends, the United States and its Western allies have long suspected it aims to develop a weapon.

The *New York Times* and *Axios* reported on Saturday that Mr. Trump had sent back a "tougher" new framework to be considered by Iran, though details remain unclear.

Top priorities

Mr. Trump has said his priorities include stopping Iran from any nuclear weapon development and reopening the Hormuz shipping lane, over which Iran has sought to impose control since the war began.

According to the *Tasnim* news agency, "exchanges between Iran and the U.S. regarding the text of a possible memorandum of understanding are ongoing, with both parties regularly proposing amendments.

Ukraine hits Russian energy sites, denies striking nuclear plant

Associated Press
KYIV

Ukraine denied Moscow's claims on Sunday that a Ukrainian drone struck the Russian-controlled Zaporizhzhia nuclear plant, as Kyiv launched fresh strikes overnight on Russian energy sites.

Ukraine's General Staff on Sunday said Ukrainian drones had struck the Saratov oil refinery in southwestern Russia, causing a "large-scale fire". It said the extent of the damage was being clarified, and claimed the refinery has been supplying Moscow's war effort.

Kyiv denied a Russian claim that a Ukrainian drone struck the Zaporizhzhia nuclear plant, Europe's largest.

The Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant in Russian-held southern Ukraine. AFP

Russia's state nuclear energy company, Rosatom, said on Saturday that the drone exploded after tearing a hole in the wall of a turbine hall, and accused Ukraine of a "deliberate" attack.

U.S. to send only used subs to Australia in revised defence deal

Agence France-Presse
SINGAPORE

Australia will only receive used nuclear-powered submarines from the United States as part of an agreement to "streamline" the AUKUS deal, with the move branded on Sunday as a "cost-effective" measure by Defence Minister Richard Marles.

The two nations – together with the third partner in their security pact, Britain – met at Singapore's Shangri-La Dialogue, which brings together top defence officials and experts from about 45 countries.

Under the 2021 AUKUS deal, Australia is expected to receive at least three so-called "Virginia-class" nuclear-powered submarines from the United States within 15 years.

Australia had been expecting to receive two used submarines and one new one, but the countries announced on Saturday that all three will now be in-service vessels from the U.S. Navy stock.

When asked why Canberra was now receiving only used equipment, Mr. Marles, who is also Deputy Prime Minister, told pressmen on Sunday it would be more cost-effective. In a joint statement, the U.S. and the U.K. confirmed the revision to the submarine agreement.

Japan's Defence Minister takes veiled swipe at China at Shangri-La summit

Agence France-Presse
SINGAPORE

Japan's Defence Minister took a veiled swipe at China on Sunday, pledging to keep strengthening the military despite Beijing's criticism of Tokyo's increasingly muscular security stance.

Under Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi, Japan has quickened its pivot towards a more proactive defence policy, further shaking off – with U.S. encouragement – a pacifist outlook in place since the end of the Second World War. The change has drawn frequent rebukes from Beijing, which has accused Tokyo of following a reckless policy of "new militarism" that could destabilise the region.

Shinjiro Koizumi, Japan's Defence Minister, speaks at the Shangri-La Dialogue security summit in Singapore on Sunday. REUTERS

Japanese Defence Minister Shinjiro Koizumi hit back on Sunday, saying "nothing could be further from the truth".

"Think about it. There is a country that has a huge arsenal of nuclear weapons and strategic bombers," Mr. Koizumi said at the annual IISS Shangri-La Dialogue in Singapore.

"Japan has neither of such weapons. And yet, Japan is labelled [as] 'new militarism'. Isn't it strange?" he said, without mentioning China by name.

China is thought to possess hundreds of nuclear warheads and has been rapidly developing its military in recent years.

A diplomatic spat between the Asian rivals has been rumbling since Ms. Takaichi suggested in November that Japan might intervene militarily if China were to attempt to seize Taiwan, the self-ruled island that Beijing claims is part of its territory.

Mr. Koizumi said that China was expanding its military capabilities "without sufficient transparency" and that its military activities were "a matter of serious concern for Japan".

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STELLAR SHOW

Bhuvneshwar equals Shami's mark with 28 wickets in a season

K.R. DEEPAK

With 28 wickets to his name, Bhuvneshwar Kumar equalled Mohammed Shami (GT in 2023) to be second on the list of Indian bowlers with the most wickets in one edition of the IPL. Harshal Patel (32 wickets for RCB in 2021) tops the chart. Bhuvneshwar finished with an average of 17.89 and an economy rate of 7.95.

CONSCIOUS EFFORT

We refrained from talking about defending the title, says Karthik

VIJAY SONEJI

We wanted to keep pushing towards our second title. One thing that we refrained from using was language around defending our title. Instead, we spoke about trying to win our second title. I think that it has made a big difference — Dinesh Karthik, batting coach and mentor of Royal Challengers Bengaluru.

TRUE CHAMPION

Evergreen Kohli second oldest to win PoM award in IPL final

VIJAY SONEJI

At the age of 37 years and 207 days, Virat Kohli became the second oldest player to win the Player-of-the-Match award in an Indian Premier League final. Anil Kumble (38y 219d, 4-0-16-4 for Royal Challengers Bengaluru vs. Deccan Chargers in 2009) remains the oldest recipient of the award.

PRODIGY

15-year-old Sooryavanshi the youngest to clinch Orange Cap

IPLT20.COM

Rajasthan Royals opener Vaibhav Sooryavanshi became the youngest player to clinch the IPL Orange Cap. The 15-year-old amassed 776 runs (one century and five half-centuries) in 16 innings to walk home with the prize. Gujarat Titans' Shubman Gill and Sai Sudharsan were in contention but fell for low scores in the final.

Ruthless: Royal Challengers capped a memorable campaign with an emphatic win in the grand finale. Patidar & Co. saved their best for the last and dashed Titans' hopes of regaining the crown. K.R. DEEPAK

Royal Challengers retain title with a regal display

Kohli takes the Bengaluru side home with an unbeaten 75; the bowlers restrict Titans to 155 for eight after Patidar asks them to take first strike; Washington wages a lone battle for Gill's men

IPL-19

Ashwin Achal
AHMEDABAD

Royal Challengers Bengaluru crowned a dominant IPL 2026 campaign with a crushing five-wicket victory over Gujarat Titans in the final here on Sunday, sealing the title with the same authority it had shown through the season.

RCB had set the standard from the opening weeks of the tournament, and reserved its best for the biggest night.

For a side considered favourite, the season ended in fitting fashion – as champion for the second successive year.

The RCB bowlers set the tone early at the Narendra Modi Stadium, relentlessly hitting hard lengths to strangle GT. A sub-par 155 for eight was never likely to be enough to seriously test a power-packed RCB batting line-up.

Stark contrast

That gulf in intent was evident when Virat Kohli (75 n.o., 42b, 9x4, 3x6) and Venkatesh Iyer (32, 16b, 4x4, 2x6) came out attacking, in stark contrast to GT's muddled innings. The pair took on Mohammed Siraj and Kagiso Rabada, powering RCB to 70 for two in the PowerPlay.

With the required rate dropping to 6.14, GT was left to play catch up.

Rashid Khan briefly raised hopes when he dismissed Rajat Patidar and Krunal Pandya in the ninth over, but with Kohli still around, RCB remained in control.

RCB capped a memorable campaign in emphatic fashion, crossing the line with 12 balls to spare. The 90,000-odd crowd, with RCB jerseys in the majority, erupted as Kohli launched Arshad Khan into the sky.

Patidar's decision to field first was vindicated, as GT never quite found room to breathe.

After the RCB pacers struck early, left-arm spinner Krunal tightened the grip with subtle changes of pace and trajectory.

Only Washington Sundar escaped the chokehold. His unbeaten 50 (37b, 5x4) was an innings of resistance, but it was a lone hand in a line-up that never settled.

Shubman Gill's men appeared wary of RCB's pace attack from the outset. Intent gave way to preservation, and preservation soon became paralysis.

Introduced in the third over, Josh Hazlewood removed Gill with a length ball. Sai Sudharsan followed soon after, miscuing while attempting to hook Bhuvneshwar Kumar. With its two premier batters back in the pavilion inside four overs, GT retreated.

The promotion of Nishant Sindhu to No. 3 underlined the mood. Tasked with blunting the new ball, Sindhu could not shift momentum, and the move only strengthened RCB's control.

GT went nearly seven overs after the PowerPlay without a boundary. Jos Buttler, usually quick to change gears, crawled at under a run-a-ball. When he finally tried to accelerate, Krunal outfoxed him with a quicker delivery and Jitesh Sharma did the rest.

Even the death overs brought little relief. Washington alone kept the scoreboard moving.

Lucky break

Dropped by substitute Jordan Cox on four, he dragged GT to a total that kept faint hope alive.

That hope vanished quickly once Kohli and Venkatesh came out to bat.

Delivering on the big night: Rasikh was the most successful RCB bowler while Hazlewood picked up a couple before the RCB openers Venkatesh and Kohli came out swinging. K.R. DEEPAK & VIJAY SONEJI

SCOREBOARD

GUJARAT TITANS
Sai Sudharsan c Jitesh b Bhuvneshwar 12 (12b, 2x4), Shubman Gill c Patidar b Hazlewood 10 (8b, 2x4), Nishant Sindhu c Padikkal b Rasikh 20 (18b, 3x4), Jos Buttler st. Jitesh b Krunal 19 (23b, 1x4), Washington Sundar (not out) 50 (37b, 5x4), Arshad Khan c Rasikh b Hazlewood 15 (6b, 2x6), Rahul Tewatia c Patidar b Rasikh 7 (5b, 1x4), Jason Holder c Hazlewood b Bhuvneshwar 7 (5b, 1x4), Rashid Khan c Shepherd b Rasikh 7 (3b, 1x6), Kagiso Rabada (not out) 3 (3b); Extras (lb-1, w-4): 5; Total (for eight wkts. in 20 overs): 155.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-22 (Gill, 2.2 overs), 2-26 (Sai Sudharsan, 3.4), 3-55 (Nishant, 7.6), 4-73 (Buttler, 12.1), 5-99 (Arshad, 14.1), 6-115 (Tewatia, 16.1), 7-142 (Holder, 18.3), 8-151 (Rashid, 19.2).

RCB BOWLING
Duffy 4-0-38-0, Bhuvneshwar 4-0-29-2, Hazlewood 4-0-37-2, Rasikh 4-0-27-3, Krunal 4-0-23-1.

ROYAL CHALLENGERS
Venkatesh Iyer **(Impact Player for Duffy)** c Rabada b Siraj 32 *(16b, 4x4, 2x6)*, Virat Kohli (not out) 75 *(42b, 9x4, 3x6)*, Devdutt Padikkal c Arshad b Rabada 1 *(4b)*, Rajat Patidar c Rabada b Rashid 15 *(13b, 1x4, 1x6)*, Krunal Pandya lbw b Rashid 1 *(2b)*, Tim David c Buttler b Arshad 24 *(17b, 3x4, 1x6)*, Jitesh Sharma (not out) 11 *(14b, 1x4)*; Extras (lb-1, w-1): 2; Total (for five wkts. in 18 overs): 161.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-62 (Venkatesh, 4.3), 2-63 (Padikkal, 5.1), 3-89 (Patidar, 8.2), 4-91 (Krunal, 8.5), 5-132 (David, 13.6).

TITANS BOWLING
Siraj 4-0-36-1, Rabada 3-0-44-1, Holder 2-0-16-0, Rashid 4-0-25-2, Arshad 4-0-32-1, Prasidh **(Impact Player for Tewatia)** 1-0-7-0.
Toss: RCB; **PoM:** Kohli.
RCB won by five wickets with two overs to spare.

Impact Index

- 3 RCB is the third team, after CSK and MI, to successfully defend its title
- 3 Kohli has the most scores of 75 or more in T20 finals
- 3.3 RCB's 50 is the fastest in a final. CSK (4 overs in 2023) held the previous record
- 4 Rabada (2020, 2026) is the fourth player to win the Purple Cap twice after Bravo (2013, 2015), Bhuvneshwar (2016, 2017) and Harshal (2021, 2024)
- 4 Patidar is the fourth skipper to win two or more titles after Dhoni (5), Rohit (5) and Gambhir (2)
- 9 For the ninth consecutive season, the winner of Qualifier 1 has gone on to lift the title. Overall, the record is 13 (out of 16) since the playoffs format was introduced in 2011
- 25 Kohli's quickest half-century (by balls faced) in the IPL
- 28 Patidar has taken the least matches by a captain to win two crowns (Rohit 44, Dhoni 59, Gambhir 79)
- 75 Kohli's is the second highest unbeaten score in a successful run chase in a final after Watson's 117 n.o. vs. SRH in 2018

Compiled by **ANIRUDH VELAMURI**

Composure of the guys just shone through: Kohli

Ashwin Achal
AHMEDABAD

At this very venue last year, Virat Kohli sunk to the ground and held back tears when Royal Challengers Bengaluru broke a long drought to clinch its maiden IPL trophy.

On Sunday, Kohli was far less emotional when RCB successfully defended the title. There was no novelty to celebrate this year, just the satisfaction of a thorough professional getting the job done.

Kohli was clinical with the bat, striking an unbeaten 42-ball 75 to lead the RCB chase.

His confidence reflected the feeling in a team which stayed ahead of the pack right from the early phase of the competition.

"It doesn't feel like the same pressure as last year. We knew what kind of ability we have in the group. We topped the table. There's a reason why we got here first. The skill sets we have, the maturity, the composure of the guys just shone through again tonight," Kohli said after the win.

RCB's excellent campaign had hinged on handy contributions from several members of the squad, a shift from the star-driven ethos in past teams.

"We have a group of guys where you don't need to be the one to step up every time. There are guys behind you, around you, who can win games. We have so many 'Player-of-the-Match' awards spread throughout the group. I feel so happy to play in a group where we have balance. We are an all-round strong team, and that is why we have confidence on the field," Kohli said.

Honours board

2008	Rajasthan Royals
2009	Deccan Chargers
2010	Chennai Super Kings
2011	Chennai Super Kings
2012	Kolkata Knight Riders
2013	Mumbai Indians
2014	Kolkata Knight Riders
2015	Mumbai Indians
2016	Sunrisers Hyderabad
2017	Mumbai Indians
2018	Chennai Super Kings
2019	Mumbai Indians
2020	Mumbai Indians
2021	Chennai Super Kings
2022	Gujarat Titans
2023	Chennai Super Kings
2024	Kolkata Knight Riders
2025	Royal Challengers Bengaluru
2026	**Royal Challengers Bengaluru**

... And the **caps go to**

ORANGE CAP
Sooryavanshi (RR)
HS: **103** | SR: **237.30**

PURPLE CAP
Rabada (GT)
BB: **3/25** | Econ: **9.68**

Best on show

Most Valuable Player: Vaibhav Sooryavanshi (RR); **Orange Cap:** Sooryavanshi; **Purple Cap:** Kagiso Rabada (GT); **Emerging player:** Sooryavanshi; **Super striker (highest SR):** Sooryavanshi; **Most sixes:** Sooryavanshi; **Most fours:** Sai Sudharsan (GT); **Most dot balls:** Mohammed Siraj (GT); **Catch of the season:** Manish Pandey (KKR); **Fairplay:** Punjab Kings

INBRIEF

Ruturaj replaces injured Parag in India-A squad

Ruturaj Gaikwad has replaced the injured Riyan Parag in the India-A squad for the upcoming tri-nation series in Sri Lanka, the BCCI said on Sunday. The series will feature the A teams of India, Sri Lanka and Afghanistan and will start on June 9.

Updated India-A squad: Tilak Varma (Capt.), Ruturaj Gaikwad (Vice-capt.), Priyansh Arya, Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, Ayush Badoni, Nishant Sindhu, Suryansh Shedge, Prabhsimran Singh (wk), Kumar Kushagra (wk), Vipraj Nigam, Yash Thakur, Yudhvir Singh, Anshul Kamboj, Arshad Khan and Anukul Roy.

Abhay and Chotrani advance in British Open squash

Abhay Singh and Veer Chotrani advanced to the second round at the British Open squash even as Ramit Tandon and Anahat Singh bowed out of the PSA Diamond event in Birmingham.

The results: Men: Abhay Singh bt Matias Knudsen 11-8, 11-5, 11-4; Veer Chotrani bt Noor Zaman 11-8, 12-14, 11-6, 11-7; Auguste Dussourd bt Ramit Tandon 14-12, 4-7, retd. **Women:** Nardine Garas bt Anahat Singh 11-8, 8-11, 11-8, 11-9.

Indian women's team blanks Bangladesh, tops group

India beat Bangladesh 3-0 in the SAFF women's championship at Margao on Sunday. The hosts scored through Pyari Xaxa (36th minute) before substitutes Lynda Serto (78th-penalty) and P. Malavika (90+1) struck. With its first win against the neighbour in the competition since 2019, India topped Group B and set up a semifinal against Bhutan on Wednesday. Bangladesh will take on Nepal in the other last-four clash.

Kamali completes a double in Indian Open surfing

Tamil Nadu's Kamali Moorthy, who secured a surfing quota for India for the upcoming Asian Games, won both the women's Open and surfing junior (u-18) girls' titles at the finals of the seventh NMPA Indian Open of Surfing in Mangaluru on Sunday. The championship serves as a selection event for India's squad for the Asian Games in Japan later this year. Kishore Kumar, also of TN, was crowned champion in men's Open category.

Satwik-Chirag win Singapore Open, end their two-year title drought

The premier Indian men's doubles team bounces back to defeat Indonesia's Alfian and Fikri for its first crown since the 2024 Thailand Open

BADMINTON

Press Trust of India
SINGAPORE

Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty fought back from a game down to clinch their maiden Singapore Open title, defeating Indonesia's Fajar Alfian and Muhammad Shohibul Fikri in the men's doubles final of the BWF Super 750 badminton tournament, here on Sunday.

The Asian Games and Commonwealth Games champions produced a gritty comeback to secure their first title in two years and their ninth career World Tour crown, besides claiming a third Super 750 title, with a tense 18-21, 21-17, 21-16 win in 73 minutes.

The victory was particularly significant for the World No. 4 Indian duo, who became the first Indians to win the doubles title at the Singapore Open.

Satwik and Chirag had last lifted a trophy at the Thailand Open in 2024. Since then, they had reached four finals but finished runner-up on each occasion before finally breaking the drought here.

The Indians had entered the final trailing 1-2 in their head-to-head record against the Indonesian pair, with their most recent defeat coming in the Malaysia Open quarterfinals in January.

After dropping a closely-fought opening game, Satwik and Chirag raised their intensity and dominated the longer rallies to turn the contest around against the World No. 3 Indonesians.

The triumph capped an impressive week for the Indian pair, who had stunned reigning World champions and top seeds Kim Won Ho and Seo Seung Jae of South Korea in the semifinals.

As the winning point was sealed, Satwik and Chirag lay flat on the court in celebration. Satwik followed it up with a baby-themed celebration, while an ecstatic Chirag let out a loud roar before leaping onto his partner.

The duo later danced on court as they savoured a long-awaited return to the top step on the podium.

"Two years... we knew for a fact that eventually the win will come. We had that belief and it was just a matter of time and finally we got it," said Chirag.

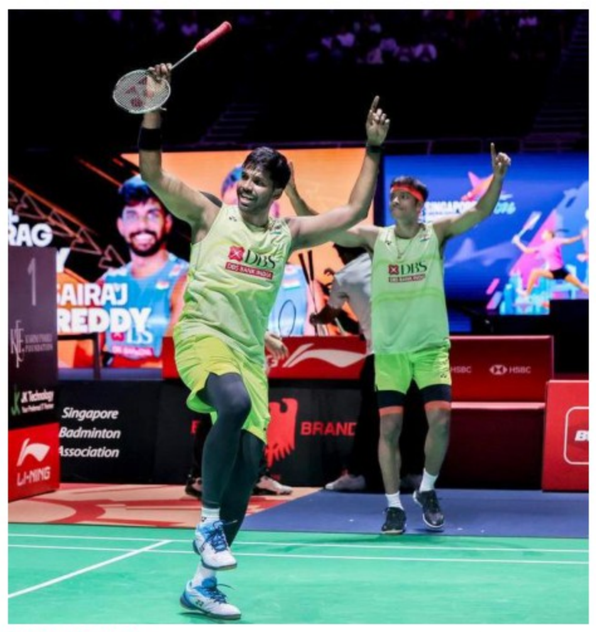
Other results (finals):

Men: Alex Lanier (Fra) bt Loh Kean Yew (Sgp) 17-21, 21-15, 21-14.

Women: An Se-young (Kor) bt Akane Yamaguchi (Jpn) 21-11, 17-21, 21-19.

Doubles: Jia Yifan & Zhang Shuxian (Chn) bt Liu Shengshu & Tan Ning (Chn) 22-20, 21-19.

Mixed doubles: Mathias Christiansen & Alexandra Boje (Den) bt Yuichi Shimogami & Sayaka Hobara 17-21, 21-12, 21-12.



Victory dance: Satwik and Chirag are over the moon after their comeback win. BWF/BADMINTON PHOTO

The Paris parade continues

0 PSG goalkeeper Matvey Safanov didn't make a single save in the game

1 **Arsenal is the first team in Champions league history to lead at half-time in two finals and lose both**

1 **Arsenal is the first English club to appear in multiple Champions League/European Cup finals without winning a title**

1 Gabriel is the first player to hit a penalty over the crossbar in a UCL final shootout since Serginho in 2005 (AC Milan vs. Liverpool)

1 Gabriel missed the first penalty (shootout) he took in his Arsenal career

3 PSG is the third team to win both its league and European Cup/UEFA Champions League in back-to-back seasons after Real Madrid (1956-57, 1957-58) and Ajax (1971-72, 1972-73)

3 Only Ancelotti (5) has won more European Cup/Champions League trophies than Enrique. Paisley, Zidane and Guardiola are the others who have won it thrice

10 For the first time in 10 years, the Champions League final was decided on penalties

24.7 Arsenal's possession percentage was the lowest in a Champions League final on record (since 2003-04) as well as its lowest in any match under Arteta where they had 11 men on the pitch throughout

42m 48s The period of time Arsenal trailed in its entire Champions League campaign, the lowest of any side

45 PSG equalled the record for most goals by a club in a Champions League season, matching Barcelona's tally in 1999-00

63.3 Enrique has the highest win-percentage of any manager with 50-plus games in CL history

75.3 PSG recorded the highest possession by a side in the Champions League final since records began

226 Arsenal has played the most games in European Cup/Champions League history without lifting the trophy

Compiled by ANIRUDH VELAMURI

PSG targets three-peat after memorable win

Associated Press
BUDAPEST

After going back-to-back in the Champions League, the next target for Paris Saint-Germain is the three-peat.

And after triumphing 4-3 in a penalty shootout against Arsenal in Saturday's final, there is no indication that PSG is ready to relinquish its position of dominance. "Of course we're going to go to the market," said PSG president Nasser Al-Khelaifi.

Kostyuk ousts four-time winner Swiatek; teenager Jodar's wonderful run continues

FRENCH OPEN

Agence France-Presse
PARIS

Four-time champion Iga Swiatek exited Roland Garros on Sunday as the top seeds continued to fall at the start of the second week, while Alexander Zverev booked his spot in the quarterfinals.

The Polish third seed endured a miserable 25th birthday as she went down 7-5, 6-1 to Madrid Open winner Marta Kostyuk.

After breaking Kostyuk in the first set to edge 4-3 ahead, Swiatek's serve totally deserted her and she failed to hold again as the Ukrainian hit back to claim the opener and then raced through the second set.

Elina Svitolina stands between her compatriot Kostyuk and the last four after the former fought back to beat Swiss 11th seed Belinda Bencic 4-6, 6-4, 6-0.

The seventh seed has reached the quarterfinals at the French Open on five previous occasions but has failed to ever go beyond that mark.

"It's exciting. Definitely she's been playing really well," Svitolina said of Kostyuk, who is on a 15-match win streak on the red dirt.

Smooth sailing: Kostyuk dispatched Swiatek with ease to move into a maiden quarterfinals at Roland Garros. AFP

Monday's Picks

MEN

4-Auger-Aliassime vs Tabilo

10-Cobolli vs Svajda

19-Tiafoe vs Arnaldi

Berrettini vs Juan Manuel Cerundolo

WOMEN

1-Sabalenka vs Osaka

19-Keys vs **25**-Schnaider

22-Kalinskaya vs **28**-Potapova

Parry vs Chwalinska

Sorana Cirstea continued her remarkable renaissance during her farewell season on tour as the 36-year-old bested Chinese World No. 148 Wang Xiyu 6-3, 7-6(4).

The Romanian will face Russian eighth seed Mirra Andreeva in what will be her first quarterfinal appearance. Teenager Andreeva, who defeated 170th-ranked Swiss Jil Teichmann in straight sets, will be targeting a second semifinal in three years.

Rising Spanish star Rafael Jodar has been no stranger to lengthy matches in his debut Roland Garros campaign and the 19-year-old battled back to beat his 34-year-old countryman Pablo Carreno Busta 4-6, 4-6, 6-1, 6-2, 6-2 and progress to the last eight.

His next opponent is the highest-ranked man left in the draw and the prime contender to claim a maiden Grand Slam crown, German second seed Zverev.

The 29-year-old three-time Major finalist eased through the fourth round with a 7-6(3), 6-4, 6-1 win over 106th-ranked Dutch lucky loser Jesper de Jong.

Yuki-Panova exit

In mixed doubles, Yuki Bhambri and his partner Alexandra Panova were outplayed by Neal Skupsk and Desirae Krawczyk 1-6, 3-6 in the second round.

THE RESULTS

Men: Fourth round: 27-Jodar (Esp) bt Busta (Esp) 4-6, 4-6, 6-1, 6-2, 6-2; 2-Zverev (Ger) bt De Jong (Ned) 7-6(3), 6-4, 6-1.
Third round: 19-Tiafoe (USA) bt Faria (Por) 4-6, 6-7(2), 7-6(4), 6-1, 6-2; 4-Auger-Aliassime (Can) bt 31-Nakashima (USA) 5-7, 6-1, 7-6(4), 7-6(1).
Women: Fourth round: 8-Andreeva bt Teichmann (Sui) 6-3, 6-2; 7-Svitolina (Ukr) bt 11-Bencic (Sui) 4-6, 6-4, 6-0; 15-Kostyuk (Ukr) bt 3-Swiatek (Pol) 7-5, 6-1; 18-Cirstea (Rou) bt Wang (Chn) 6-3, 7-6(4).
Third round: 19-Keys (USA) bt 9-Mboko (Can) 6-3, 5-7, 7-5.
Mixed doubles: Second round: Krawczyk (USA) & Skupski (GBr) bt Yuki (Ind) & Panova 6-1, 6-3.
Fallen seeds: Men: 31-Nakashima. **Women:** 3-Swiatek, 9-Mboko, 11-Bencic.

Women's relay gold caps India's strong campaign in Asian u-20 Championships

Stellar: India's women's 4x400m relay team set a meet record. AFI

Good showing: India's men's 4x400m team of Ranjith, Sayed, Ashfaq, and Piyush took bronze in 3:05.54. AFI

ATHLETICS

Sports Bureau

India ended the Asian under-20 Athletics Championships in Hong Kong with another gold as its women's 4x400m relay team set a meet record on the final day on Sunday.

The quartet of Bhumika Sanjay Nehate, Tahura Khatun, Sehnoor Bawa and Neeru Pathak clocked 3:38.07 to finish ahead of Kazakhstan, which took silver in 3:43.63.

Host Hong Kong claimed bronze in 3:49.94.

India added another relay medal soon after, with the men's 4x400m team of Piyush Raj, Sayed Sabeer, Ranjith Kumar S. and Mohammed Ashfaq taking bronze in 3:05.54.

China won gold in 3:04.88, while Qatar finished second in 3:05.06.

Earlier in the day, Venkatram Reddy Mogali won gold in the men's 800m with a personal best of 1:48.27.

Muskan had also topped the women's 5000m in 16:53.08, while Nishchay claimed silver in the men's discus throw with a personal best of 60.10m.

The final-day medals capped a strong campaign for the Indian contingent at the continental junior meet.

Mogali won gold in men's 800m. AFI

Muskan topped the women's 5000m. AFI

Nishchay claimed silver in the men's discus throw. AFI

Wrestlers Aman and Sujeet book Asian Games ticket

Sports Bureau
LUCKNOW

There was none of the drama or controversy that marked the women's trials, but the men's selection trials on Sunday were not short on action and excitement, with many of the top wrestlers ensuring their tickets to the Asian Games.

Paris Olympics bronze medallist Aman Sehrawat brooked no resistance, winning the 57kg final against Rahul 11-1 with more than two minutes left to assert his supremacy in the category.

Aman – who won both his earlier bouts on technical superiority – spent less than 15 minutes in total on the mat at the Sports Authority of India's regional centre for his victory through the day even as Atish Todkar, expected to challenge him, was shocked in the opening round itself.

In the 65kg category, Sujeet Kalkal, too, burnished his credentials with a hard-fought 2-0 win in the final against Vishal Kaliraman despite being at less than optimum fitness.

Kalkal, who suffered a knock on his knees in his semifinal against Nikhil, had to dig deep against a fighting Kaliraman before sealing his spot.

However, favourite and rising star Abhimanyou, the recently crowned Asian champion and former under-23 Asian champion in the 70kg, was among the notable upsets of the day, losing 2-2 in the 74kg quarterfinals to Yash on the basis of last point won. Abhimanyou, who received a bye in the opening round, had an easy 13-2 win in the second round.

Also making his quarterfinal exit in the same category was Chander Mohan, who won the under-23 Asian title in the 79kg last week even as Sagar Jaglan beat Jaideep 8-6 in the final to qualify for the continental event.

Former 86kg World and Asian medallist Deepak Punia, gradually climbing up the weight categories and competing in the 97kg here, got the better of Jointy Kumar in the final, pinning his opponent to the mat on the edge of the fighting circle while leading 5-0 late in the night.

Walk in the park: Aman spent less than 15 minutes in total on the mat. SANDEEP SAXENA

Former 86kg World and Asian medallist Deepak Punia, gradually climbing up the weight categories and competing in the 97kg here, got the better of Jointy Kumar in the final

Indian squad: Men: 57kg: Aman Sehrawat; **65kg:** Sujeet Kalkal; **74kg:** Sagar Jaglan; **86kg:** Mukul Dahiya; **97kg:** Deepak Punia; **125kg:** Rajat.
Greco-Roman: 60kg: Sumit; **67kg:** Deepak; **77kg:** Aman; **87kg:** Sunil; **97kg:** Nitesh Kumar; **130kg:** Deepanshu.

Divya snatches lead; Gukesh prevails over Pragg

American So piles more misery on Carlsen; Assaubayeva goes down to Muzychuk in the women's event; Humpy tastes her first success, handing a defeat to World champ Ju in Armageddon

NORWAY CHESS

C. Shyam Sundar
OSLO

Getting it right: Divya posted a win over Zhu in the classical format while Gukesh edged out Praggnanandhaa in Armageddon to jump to third spot. FLICKR/NORWAY CHESS

The rest day appears to have done D. Gukesh a world of good as he prevailed over R. Praggnanandhaa in an all-Indian contest in the fifth round of the Norway Chess at Deichman Bjorvika on Saturday to jump to third place.

World No. 1 Magnus Carlsen was at the receiving end as he went down to American Wesley So in the classical format to slip back to the last spot on the leaderboard.

Gukesh said it was "just a very complex game" and added, "luckily, the tricks kind of worked out for me!"

"I felt a lot of pressure and was very tense from the start, but I'm lucky to have come through. I'm surely doing much, much better than I was a couple of months back."

So was over the moon after posting his second classical win over Carlsen and said: "It's not a masterpiece, but I'm very pleased to beat Magnus, who's the best player in the world by far and probably goes down as the best chess player who ever lived."

> I'm lucky to have come through. I'm surely doing much, much better than I was a couple of months back
> GUKESH

In the women's event, Indian GM Divya Deshmukh is on top of the standings, after a win against Zhu Jiner in the classical to move to 8.5 points. Kazakhstan's Bibisara Assaubayeva is half-a-point behind the leader after crashing to a defeat in Armageddon against Anna Muzychuk.

Koneru Humpy finally secured a win, handing a defeat to World champion Ju Wenjun of China in Armageddon.

The results (fifth round):
Open: Alireza Firouzja (Fra, 10) bt Vincent Keymer (Ger, 5) in Armageddon.

Magnus Carlsen (Nor, 4.5) lost to Wesley So (USA, 8.5); R. Praggnanandhaa (6) lost to D. Gukesh (6.5) in Armageddon.

Women: Zhu Jiner (Chn, 5.5) lost to Divya Deshmukh (8.5); Anna Muzychuk (Ukr, 7) bt Bibisara Assaubayeva (Kaz, 8) in Armageddon; Koneru Humpy (4.5) bt Ju Wenjun (Chn, 5) in Armageddon.

(The writer is in Oslo at the invitation of Norway Chess).

Tari backs under-fire Gukesh to turn things around

C. Shyam Sundar
OSLO

Personal take: Tari feels form goes out of the window in a World championship match. FLICKR/NORWAY CHESS

Norwegian Grandmaster Aryan Tari is in awe of the phenomenal rise of Indian chess in recent years, saying that the support the game has been receiving has led to new talent springing up frequently.

Tari, a former World junior champion, backed D. Gukesh to turn things around.

"The last couple of months were a bit tough for him. Maybe he felt too much pressure being the World champion," the 26-year-old said in an interaction with *The Hindu* on the sidelines of Norway Chess. Tari tipped the Indian ace to regain his mojo and said: "Gukesh can recover from his bad form and be back to his 'A' game."

More than just chess

He stressed that the World championship wasn't only about chess and that there were other elements too.

"It is a title match... nerves play a part. Maybe the experience Gukesh has of playing one can help," Tari said, adding:

"I would put his (Gukesh's) chances at 50-50 against Javokhir Sindarov."

Uzbek Sindarov has been in good form recently, winning the Candidates tournament rather comfortably.

But, Tari, Norway's No. 3 player behind Magnus Carlsen and Johan-Sebastian Christiansen, said that recent results don't matter much in a match like the title decider.

As for the women's championship clash, he felt that defending champion Ju Wenjun may have a slight advantage over R. Vaishali but didn't write off the Indian.

"I wouldn't be surprised if Vaishali wins.

"She will be well prepared and will pose a huge challenge for Ju," Tari signed off.

Adithya and Rehan top among juniors; Shiv, Ayansh share honours in mini class

IAME INDIA SERIES

S. Dipak Ragav
COIMBATORE

The best: Rehan, Ayansh and Swarnav won the junior, mini and senior category finals. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Grassroot karting in India got a fillip with the launch of the IAME India Series at the CoASTT circuit here on Sunday.

The series is promoted by RA Motorsports and uses two IAME (Italian American Motor Engineering) engine specs across the following categories: mini under-10, mini (X30 Water Swift 60cc Engine), junior (125cc Junior X30 Engine), and senior (125cc Senior X30 Engine).

In the junior class, Adithya Prathap and Rehan Khan Rasheed shared the honours, winning the points-scoring Super Heat and Finals, respectively.

In the mini class, Coimbatore's Shiv Neel, son of India's first Formula One driver Narain Karthikeyan, topped the Super Heat after race winner Aaruthran Prabu (Karkrew Motorsports) received a time penalty for infringements and was demoted to second.

The top-two finishers in each category at the end of the five-round series will get an entry into the IAME Asia Finals, scheduled to be held at the Macau International Circuit in December.

Danie Ling, Executive Director of IAME Series Asia, said he was pleased at how quickly the National series was put together.

"RA Motorsport has done a great job of quickly sealing the deal after initiating talks. It was in Macau last year that they met officials from IAME Asia, and here we are, just five or six months later," said Ling.

"By offering this opportunity, we are creating a pathway for Indian drivers to progress to the international level. If the National series is strong enough, drivers will naturally graduate to higher levels," he added.

The results (Provisional):
Juniors – Super Heat (14 laps):
1. Adithya Prathap (Momentum Motorsports) (11:13.821); 2. Rehan Khan Rasheed (Momentum Motorsports) (11:15.358); 3. Yasvinraam Rajamanickam (Momentum Motorsports) (11:27.999).
Finals (16 laps): 1. Rehan Khan (12:38.306); 2. Arjun Prasad Srihari (NKRA with KKM) (12:55.235); 3. Adithya Prathap (12:58.208).
Mini – Super Heat (12 laps): 1. Shiv Neel (NKRA with KKM) (10:11.110); 2. Aarathran Prabu (Kartkrew Motorsports) (10:19.755); 3. Ayansh Patil (MSPORT) (10:20.896).
Finals (13 laps): 1. Ayansh Patil (11:19.265); 2. Shiv Neel (11:21.249); 3. Rudra Gokulnath (NKRA with KKM) (11:30.158).
Seniors – Super Heat (14 laps): 1. Swarnav Das (Momentum Motorsports) (11:13.821s); 2. Raunak Surej (Kartkrew Motorsports) (11:31.897); 3. Balaprasath (Momentum Motorsports) (11:45.827).
Finals (16 laps – 2 finishers): 1. Swarnav Das (12:31.404); 2. Raunak Srek (12:54.487).

(The writer was in Coimbatore at the invitation of RA Motorsports).

Suarez left out of Uruguay WC squad

ANI
MONTEVIDEO

Uruguay has unveiled its squad for the FIFA World Cup. Veteran striker Luis Suarez, a talismanic figure for the national team over the past 11 years, will not be part of the squad for the tournament in the USA, Canada, and Mexico.

Suarez is not included for the first time since the South Americans returned to the World Cup at South Africa 2010.

Another surprise has been the omission of Nahitan Nandez, who was a starter during the qualifiers. Guillermo Varela, Giorgian de Arrascaeta, Nicolas de la Cruz, Joaquin Piquerez and Emiliano Martinez have been picked.

Uruguay will begin its campaign in Group H against Saudi Arabia on June 16.

The squads: URUGUAY:
Goalkeepers: Sergio Rochet, Fernando Muslera and Santiago Mele.
Defenders: Guillermo Varela, Ronald Araujo, Jose Maria Gimenez, Santiago Bueno, Sebastian Caceres, Mathias Olivera, Joaquin Piquerez, Matias Vina.
Midfielders: Manuel Ugarte, Emiliano Martinez, Rodrigo Bentancur, Federico Valverde, Agustin Canobbio, Juan Manuel Sanabria, Giorgian de Arrascaeta, Nicolas de la Cruz, Rodrigo Zalazar, Facundo Pellistri, Maximiliano Araujo, Brian Rodriguez.
Forwards: Rodrigo Aguirre, Federico Vinas and Darwin Nunez.
ALGERIA: Goalkeepers: Luca Zidane, Oussama Benbot, Melvin Mastil, Abdelatif Ramdane.
Defenders: Rafik Belghali, Samir Chergui, Rayan Aït-Nouri, Jaouen Hadjam, Aïssa Mandi, Ramy Bensebaïni, Zineddine Belaid, Achref Abada, Mohamed Amine Tougai.
Midfielders: Nabil Bentaleb, Hicham Boudaoui, Houssem Aouar, Farès Chaïbi, Ibrahim Maza, Yacine Titraoui, Ramiz Zerrouki.
Forwards: Mohamed Amine Amoura, Nadhir Benbouali, Adil Boulbina, Farès Ghedjemis, Amine Gouiri, Anis Hadj Moussa, Riyad Mahrez.

One third of coaches are stubborn and abusive, says Antil

ATHLETICS

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Antil. PTI

One third of the coaches are egoistic and stubborn, use outdated training methods, and some of them are even abusive, alleged two-time Paralympic gold medallist Sumit Antil.

Antil, who broke his own world record in the F64 javelin throw category in Bengaluru recently, said: "There are some coaches who are egoistic, who are not willing to learn and act with time. The ratio I would say is 30% or one third of the coaches. The older coaches are more egoistic than the newer lot."

The 27-year-old added: "I have seen others who are willing to adopt new things. Those who have become coaches after 2010-11 are willing to learn and adopt newer techniques."

The Paralympic record holder brought up his own case to substantiate his allegations. "I had left a coach, who still claims that I am his product, in 2019. After all these years, if he still wants to claim me, it is not fair. No one is anyone's product as there is no magic wand to make an athlete a World champion or an Olympic (Paralympic) medallist," Antil said.

> Those who have become coaches after 2010-11 are willing to learn

"An athlete has to go through various processes and stages. Why is that only one reaches the international level among 20 athletes trained by the same coach? What about the other 19 athletes? Does the coach take responsibility?"

Antil cited the lure for prize money as the reason behind coaches claiming success of athletes they had once trained.

India women beat Korea; men slip against Japan in under-18 Asia Cup

HOCKEY

Press Trust of India
KAKAMIGAHARA (JAPAN)

Star turn: Kiran, who scored India's third goal, was named Player-of-the-Match. X@HOCKEYINDIA

The Indian women's hockey team registered a convincing 3-1 victory over Korea in its second Pool A match of the under-18 Asia Cup here on Sunday.

In the men's section, India fought hard but went down 4-2 to Japan after trailing 2-1 at half-time.

Riding on goals from Nousheen Naz, Shruti Kumari and Kiran Ekka, the Indian women maintained their winning momentum in the tournament following the opening-day triumph over Malaysia.

Top of standings

The women now sit atop the standings with six points and will face Singapore in their final pool fixture on June 2.

India made a bright start and earned a penalty stroke in the opening quarter.

Nousheen (fourth minute) stepped up and calmly converted the opportunity to hand India an early 1-0 lead.

The Indians continued to dominate possession and doubled their advantage in the second quarter.

In the 21st minute, Shruti found the back of the net with a fine field goal, giving India a comfortable 2-0 cushion heading into the half-time break.

Korea attempted a comeback after the break and reduced the deficit in the third quarter when Gyeongmin Ryu scored in the 41st minute.

Penalty corner

However, India restored its two-goal advantage soon when Kiran, who was also named Player-of-the-Match, successfully converted a penalty corner in the 43rd minute.

India remained disciplined in the final quarter of the contest, denying Korea any further scoring opportunities to seal the important victory.

The Indian team earned four penalty corners and one penalty stroke during the match, while Korea were awarded two penalty corners.

The results: Women: India 3 (Nousheen Naz 4, Shruti Kumari 21, Kiran Ekka 43) bt Korea 1 (Gyeongmin Ryu 41).
Men: Japan 4 (Mahiro Yoshioka 15, Yuma Fujiwara 20, Kengo Yasui 34, Aone Takahashi 42) bt India 2 (Ashish Tani Purti 25, Ketan Kushwaha 32).

D'artagnan wins the feature event

RACING

BENGALURU: P. Shroff trained D'artagnan (G. Vivek up), won the Bangalore Turf Club Karnataka Juvenile Million (1,400m), the chief event of the races held here on Sunday (May 31).

The winner is owned by Horse Haven Breeding and Racing Pvt. Ltd. rep. by Mr & Mrs. Vijay B. Shrike, Mr. Jay V. Shirke, Hyperion Bloodstock Pvt Ltd rep. by Mr & Mrs. Farouq Rattonsey, Mr. Mehernosh H. Deboo, Mrs. Liane Milan Luthria, Mr. Milan Luthria & M/S. Darashaw Racing.

THE RESULTS:

1. ENDORSEMENT PLATE (1,600M): BARTOLINO (Pavan) 1, Digital Empress (Sandesh) 2, Ashwa New York (Suraj) 3 and Asterion (Antony) 4. 3/4, 3/4 and 3/4. 1m, 44.36s. ₹193 (w), 26 and 13 (p), SHP: 22, THP: 43, FP: 398, Q: 146, Trinella: 446/150, Exacta: 1,101/530.

Favourite: Ashwa New York. Owners: Mrs. Kaviya V, Mr. Francis Arun Kumar, Mr. Mohd Javeed Ghatala & M/s. Ajaad Stud and Livestock (OPC) Pvt Ltd. Trainer: Irfan Ghatala.

2. AUREOLE TIME PLATE (DIV. II), 1,200M: MERICLE BEAUTY (Kiran Rai) 1, Khazana (Aleemuddin) 2, Mega Success (Jagadeesh) 3 and Meghann (Laxman S) 4. 3-3/4, 2-1/4 and 3/4. 1m, 18.59s. ₹29 (w), 14, 11 and 23 (p), SHP: 33, THP: 47, FP: 58, Q: 23, Trinella: 303/226, Exacta: 3,284/1,809.

Favourite: Khazana. Owner: Mr. Amarjeet Singh Narula. Trainer: G.Y. Rajesh Babu.

3. WORLD NO-TOBACCO DAY PLATE (DIV. II), 1,300M: NIGHT RAIDER (Pavan) 1, Vibrant Queen (L.A. Rozario) 2, Steely Challenge (Sai Kiran) 3 and Honeypot (M. Rajesh K) 4. Not run: Treasure Queen. 2-3/4, 1 and 9-3/4. 1m, 22.44s. ₹41 (w), 16, 14 and 10 (p), SHP: 27, THP: 31, FP: 200, Q: 95, Trinella: 479/220, Exacta: 7,097/2,607.

Favourite: Assurances. Owners: M/s. Arun Alagappan Racing LLP & Mr. Chandrakanth Kankaria. Trainer: Irfan Ghatala.

4. S.G. MADHUKAR MEMORIAL TROPHY (1,400M): ALFONSINE (A. Asbar) 1, Zayyan (Yash) 2, Sunshine (Suraj) 3 and Invincible (Kiran Rai) 4. 8, 2 and 1-3/4. 1m, 28.35s. ₹36 (w), 13, 10 and 15 (p), SHP: 33, THP: 36, FP: 78, Q: 34, Trinella: 151/87, Exacta: 5,480/5,167. Favourite: Zayyan. Owner: Mr. P. Arun Kumar. Trainer: Pradeep Annaiah.

5. BANGALORE TURF CLUB KARNATAKA JUVENILE MILLION (1,400M): D'ARTAGNAN (G. Vivek) 1, Siege Storm (Akshay K) 2, Buckingham (Antony) 3 and Shining Ways (Suraj) 4. 6-3/4, 3-3/4 and 3-3/4. 1m, 27.84s. ₹28 (w), 14 and 12 (p), SHP: 26, THP: 30, FP: 39, Q: 28, Trinella: 69/30, Exacta: 202/129.

Favourite: Buckingham. Owners: Horse Haven Breeding and Racing Pvt Ltd rep. by Mr & Mrs. Vijay B. Shrike, Mr. Jay V. Shirke, Hyperion Bloodstock Pvt. Ltd. rep. by Mr & Mrs. Farouq Rattonsey, Mr. Mehernosh H. Deboo, Mrs. Liane Milan Luthria, Mr. Milan Luthria & M/S. Darashaw Racing. Trainer: P. Shroff.

6. AUREOLE TIME PLATE (DIV. I), 1,200M: STEFFEN (S. Sachin) 1, Dasadyu (Bhawani S) 2, Carter (Md. Talib) 3 and Agrima (Aditya W) 4. 1-1/4, 2-3/4 and 1. 1m, 17.58s. ₹30 (w), 12, 18 and 25 (p), SHP: 48, THP: 66, FP: 300, Q: 151, Trinella: 3,018/1,194, Exacta: 4,771/2,272.

Favourite: Steffen. Owner: Mr. P. Arun Kumar. Trainer: Pradeep Annaiah.

7. WORLD NO-TOBACCO DAY PLATE (DIV. I), 1,300M: VALIANT STREAM (Akshay K) 1, Darrington (Pavan) 2, Agrador (Sandesh) 3 Oxytocin (Kiran Rai) 4. 4-3/4, Snk and 1. 1m, 22.18s. ₹18 (w), 12, 16 and 16 (p), SHP: 29, THP: 38, FP: 41, Q: 23, Trinella: 113/76, Exacta: 1,399/1,330.

Favourite: Valiant Stream. Owners: Manjri Horse Breeders' Farm Pvt Ltd, M/s. DT Racing & Breeding LLP & Stride Livestock Pvt Ltd. Trainer: S. Attaollahi.

Jackpot: ₹2,702; Runner-up: 575; Mini Jackpot: 880; Treble (i): 561; (ii): 223.

LIVE TELECAST

French Open: Sony Sports Ten 2, 3, 5 & LIV, 2.30 p.m. & 12 a.m. (Tuesday).

Big win for Young Dynamos

Sports Bureau
BENGALURU

Young Dynamos thrashed Bangalore Kickers FC 6-1 in a Group-6 match of the BDFA C-division league championship on Sunday.

Other results: Group-6: Shining Star FC bt Freedom FC 1-0; JSports FC bt Bangalore Muslims 2-1; **Group-8:** Rangers FC bt RBI FC 1-0; Royals FC bt Chinnappa Garden 5-0.

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CAPTAIN, BENGALURU

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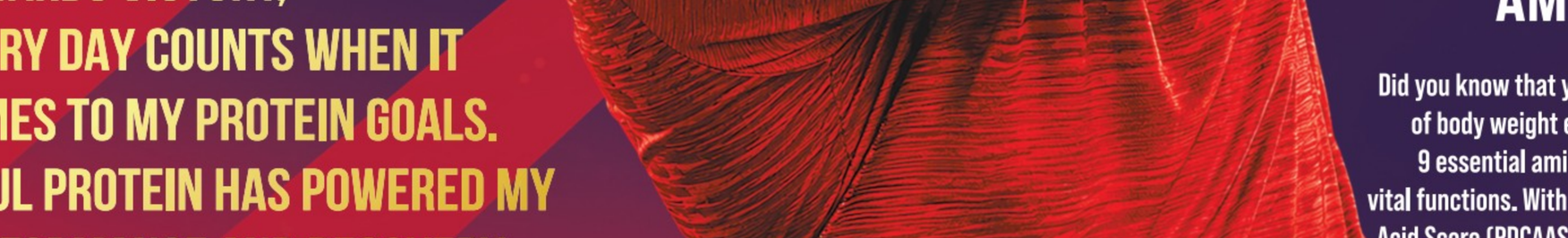

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From code to core

Why Basic Sciences still matter in Engineering education

GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

D. Praveen Sam

In many engineering colleges across India, a discernible curricular shift is underway; one that reflects not just pedagogical reform but also a deeper reordering of priorities. Courses such as Engineering Physics and Engineering Chemistry – long regarded as the intellectual bedrock of Engineering education – are being reduced, merged, or, in some instances, removed from the first-year curriculum.

This is driven largely by the growing dominance of programmes such as Computer Science Engineering, Information Technology, Artificial Intelligence, and Data Science, which are widely perceived as more immediately aligned with employability and industry demand, and equally shaped by student preference.

Placement-centric

Over the past decade, a substantial proportion of Engineering aspirants across India have gravitated toward computing-oriented disciplines, often assuming that Physics and Chemistry bear little relevance to careers in software development or data analytics. Such assumptions are further reinforced by placement-centric narratives that privilege short-term technical proficiency over conceptual depth. Yet this perception obscures a fundamental truth: Engineering, irrespective of its specialisation, remains anchored in the principles of basic science.

Engineering education, historically, has been structured upon a foundational triad of Physics, Chemistry, and Maths. This is particularly true of the formative first year, where conceptual clarity precedes specialisation. Earlier curriculum frameworks positioned Engineering Physics and Engineering Chemistry at the beginning so that students could comprehend the behaviour of materials, energy, and systems.

These courses introduced domains such as electromagnetic theory, thermodynamics, optics, materials science, nanotechnology, and corrosion that underpin contemporary technological advancement. Their gradual dilution risks eroding the analytical rigour that distinguishes engineers from technicians. Engineers are expected not merely to execute tasks, but also to analyse, design, and optimise systems through the application of scientific reasoning.

Untenable belief

The belief that Physics and Chemistry are relevant only to traditional "core" branches is increasingly untenable in an era of technological convergence. Semiconductor technology, which embeds the foundation of modern computing, is rooted in Solid-State Physics and Materials Chemistry. The design of microprocessors, memory systems, and communication networks depends on principles derived from quantum mechanics, electronic behaviour, and photonics.

Similarly, advances in energy-efficient computing and sustainable infrastructure draw upon Electrochemistry and Materials Science. Data centres, often perceived as abstract digital constructs, are intense physical environments governed by thermal dynamics and energy transfer. To perceive Computer Science as detached from the Physical Sciences is to overlook the very conditions that sustain digital technologies.

In a rapidly evolving technological ecosystem, the durability of scientific principles is crucial. Engineers grounded in these principles are better equipped to adapt, innovate, and interrogate underlying systems. An education that sidelines foundational science risks producing graduates who are vulnerable to technological obsolescence.

The growing emphasis on early specialisation further intensifies this concern. Students now commit to narrowly defined domains at the outset of their academic journey, often guided by market trends. While this may enhance immediate employability, it risks constraining intellectual rigour. Technological paradigms evolve rapidly, and skills that are currently in demand may soon lose their relevance.

A solid grounding in basic science equips engineers with the flexibility to cut across disciplines, engage with nascent fields, and be innovative. Many transformative developments, from quantum computing to nanotechnology, have emerged at the intersection of Engineering and Fundamental Science, underscoring the importance of preserving this foundation.

The question, hence, is not whether Physics and Chemistry should be integral to Engineering curricula but how they need to reflect contemporary relevance. Integrating application-oriented modules offers a productive approach where the learners can relate to ideas learned and applied.

Physics can emphasise semiconductor devices, optical systems, and computational modelling, while Chemistry can focus on materials engineering, energy storage, corrosion prevention, and environmental sustainability. This will preserve conceptual depth and enhance practical engagement.

As universities continue to recalibrate curricula, the marginalisation of Physics and Chemistry must be approached with caution. Their deletion will not merely streamline syllabi but weaken the very foundations of Engineering education and diminish the capacity for innovation. In the long arc of technological progress, what is required is not the abandonment of foundational knowledge but its renewal.Physics and Chemistry remain indispensable to the making of engineers who can design the future.

The writer is an Associate Professor of English at Sri Sivasubramaniya Nadar College of Engineering (SSN), Chennai.

Make an informed decision

Uncertain about your career options? Low on self-confidence? This column may help

OFF THE EDGE
Nandini Raman

I have completed Master's in Maths. When applying for jobs, I understood that my knowledge is only surface level despite my degree. I am planning an M.Tech Applied Math. What steps should I take to identify a suitable specialisation? Rose

What you are feeling is common. For M.Tech. Applied Math, work on computational skills to test theories on real data. Learn a programming language like Python and libraries like NumPy, SciPy, Pandas, and Matplotlib. Depending on your interest, familiarise yourself with MATLAB (for control systems/engineering), R (for heavy statistics), or C++ (for high-frequency trading).

Explore specialised software and take subjects that you enjoyed during your Master's and explore their direct industry applications. Replicate Applied Maths research papers by using Python or MATLAB.

Look at the curriculum for M.Tech programmes in Applied Maths, Industrial Maths, or Data Science at top institutions and check out prerequisites, the profiles of the faculty and their research topics. If a topic sounds fascinating, read their introductory papers and try to get an audience with them.

I am a B.Sc. Nursing graduate and have got a job too. I plan to attempt the UPSC CSE in 2029. How can I manage the preparation and my job? Ameya

Dear Ameya,

You can comfortably manage a full-time job without burning out, provided you are disciplined and consistent. Nursing is physically and emotionally demanding, with rotating shifts.

So try and follow a flexible study routine. Three hours a day is more than enough now. Study before your shift, as energy levels will be high. Use the time after your shift for lighter tasks like reading the newspaper, watching a news debate or revision. Do 6-8 hours on your off days.

NCERT textbooks of History, Geography, Polity/Civics, Economics and Science from Classes 6 to 12 are important. Use the 'Two-Read' Rule. Read 1: Read it like a storybook. Do not highlight. Do not make notes. Read 2: Read with a pencil, linking the chapters to the UPSC syllabus. Slowly move to standard textbooks and finalise your Optional Subject in year two. Consider weekend or online coaching in year three. Dedicate years four and five to ethics and writing practise for the Mains.

I am a B.Tech Electronics graduate who has a software job. I am considering an MBA. How can I find something that aligns with my interests? Adarsh

Dear Adarsh,

Meet a career counsellor and get a personality and career mapping done to understand your interests first. Explore MBA specialisations accordingly. Since you already have a software job, consider Product Management (PM). Try to shadow a Project Manager or a Business Analyst to see if the role interests you. Before committing to the CAT, GMAT, or GRE, reach out to your B.Tech friends who have done an MBA and ask about the reality of their jobs. Take free introductory courses in Marketing or Financial Accounting on Coursera or LinkedIn Learning to help you make an informed decision.

After my UG in Electronics and Communication Engineering, I have been working as an Infrastructure Engineer. I want to pursue a Master's in the same field, but focusing on acoustics. I am primarily looking at countries such as Germany or Italy. What is the best approach to identify and apply to programmes? Madhu

Dear Madhu,

Identify your interest: is it Architectural Acoustics (designing concert halls), Audio Engineering (music technology), or Industrial/Automotive Acoustics (reducing engine noise)?

Some good German universities are the Technical University of Berlin, RWTH Aachen , TU Dresden and the University of Applied Sciences (TH) Lübecks.

Public universities in Italy have tuition fees based on your family income (ISEE-I equivalent). Look up the Politecnico di Milano (PoliMi), the University of Ferrara, and the University of Parma.

You need to prove that your ECE background satisfies their Acoustics prerequisites. Most PG programmes are in English, but you will still need an IELTS (6.5+) or TOEFL score. For Germany, you will also need an APS certificate from the Academic Evaluation Centre before applying for a visa. This can take 2–4 months, so start early.

Disclaimer: This column is merely a guiding voice and provides advice and suggestions on education and careers.

The writer is a practising counsellor and a trainer. Send your questions to eduplus.thehindu@gmail.com with the subject line Off the Edge

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- B.Tech in Computer Science and Engineering (Gaming Technology)
- B.Tech in Computer Science and Engineering (Full Stack Development)
- B.Tech in Computer Science and Engineering - (For Working Professionals Only)

Department of Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning (AIML)
- B.Tech in Computer Science and Engineering Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning)
- B.Tech in Computer Science and Engineering (Artificial Intelligence)
- B.Tech in Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning

Department of Artificial Intelligence and Data Science (AIDS)
- B.Tech in Computer Science and Engineering (Data Science)
- B.Tech in Computer Science and Engineering (Data Analytics)
- B.Tech in Artificial Intelligence and Data Science
- B.Tech in Computer Science and Engineering (Artificial Intelligence and Data Science)

Department of Cyber Security (CyS)
- B.Tech in Computer Science and Engineering (Internet of Things and Cyber Security Including Block Chain Technology)
- B.Tech in Computer Science and Engineering (Cyber Security)
- B.Tech in Computer Science and Engineering (Computer Network and Cyber Security)
- B.Tech in Computer Science and Engineering (Cyber Security with Artificial Intelligence)
- B.Tech in Computer Science and Engineering (Cyber Security and Digital Forensic)

School of Computer Applications & Technology

Department of Computer Applications & Technology
- BCA*
- BCA in Industry Oriented Specialization (Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning)*
- BCA in Industry Oriented Specialization (Cloud Computing and Virtualization)*
- BCA in Industry Oriented Specialization (Computer Networks and Cyber Security)*
- BCA in Industry Oriented Specialization (Data Analytics)*
- BCA in Industry Oriented Specialization (Multimedia and Animation)*
- Integrated BCA + MCA
- B.Sc (Hons) Computer Science*
- B.Sc (Hons) Computer Science (Cloud Computing)*
- B.Sc (Hons) Computer Science (Cyber Security)*
- B.Sc (Hons) Computer Science (Data Science)*
- B.Sc (Hons) Computer Science (Game Design and Development)*
- B.Sc in Cognitive Computing

School of Artificial Intelligence

Department of Artificial Intelligence & Cyber Security
- BBA Artificial Intelligence In Fintech and Banking Innovation
- BBA Artificial Intelligence In Human Resource Management
- BBA Artificial Intelligence In Digital Marketing and Consumer Insights
- BBA Artificial Intelligence In MediaTech and Content Intelligence
- BBA Artificial Intelligence In Supply Chain and Operations Management
- B.Sc Artificial Intelligence In Digital Twin and Extended Reality (XR)
- B.Sc Artificial Intelligence In Agentic AI (Autonomous Intelligent Systems)
- B.Sc Artificial Intelligence In Agritech and Smart Farming
- B.Sc Artificial Intelligence In Robotics and Intelligent Systems
- B.Sc Artificial Intelligence In Healthcare AI and Bioinformatics
- B.Sc Artificial Intelligence In Data Science and Advanced Analytics
- B.Tech in Cyber Security

School of Engineering

Department of Civil Engineering
- B.Tech in Civil Engineering
- B.Tech in Civil Engineering with Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning
- B.Tech (Hons) in Civil Engineering (Smart Cities)
- B.Tech in Civil Engineering (Geographical Information Systems and Remote Sensing)

Department of Electrical, Electronics & Communication Engineering
- B.Tech in Electronics and Communication Engineering
- B.Tech in Electronics and Computer Engineering
- B.Tech in Electronics and Communication Engineering (Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning)
- B.Tech Electronics Engineering (VLSI Design and Technology)
- B.Tech Electronics and Communication (Advanced Communication Technology)
- B.Tech in Electrical Engineering
- B.Tech in Electrical Engineering (Electric Vehicle)
- B.Tech in Electrical and Computer Engineering
- B.Tech in Embedded Systems
- B.Tech in Electrical and Electronics Engineering
- B.Tech in Electronics and Communication Engineering - (For Working Professionals Only)

Department of Mechanical Engineering
- B.Tech Mechanical Engineering
- B.Tech Mechanical Engineering with specialization in E-Vehicles and Autonomous Vehicles
- B.Tech Mechanical Engineering with specialization in Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning
- B.Tech in Mechatronics
- B.Tech in Robotics
- B.Tech Mechanical Engineering - (For Working Professionals Only)

School of Defence Technology

Department of Defence Technology
- B.Tech in Defence Technology (Aerospace Technology)
- B.Tech in Defence Technology (Communication Systems and Sensors)
- B.Tech in Defence Technology (Artificial Intelligence and Cyber Security)
- B.Tech in Defence Technology (Directed Energy Technology)

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School of Aviation, Logistics & Tourism Management

Department of Aviation, Logistics & Tourism Management
- BBA Aviation Management*
- BBA Logistics and Supply Chain Management*
- BBA (Tourism and Travel)*

School of Skill Sciences & Entrepreneurship

Department of Retail Management
- BBA in Retail Management & Digital Marketing

Department of Media Management
- BBA in Media Management & Digital Marketing

Department of Artificial Intelligence
- B.Tech. in Artificial Intelligence

Department of Cyber Security
- B.Tech. in Cyber Security

Department of Data Science
- B.Tech. in Data Science

School of Liberal Education

Department of Humanities
- BA (Hons) Psychology*
- BA (Hons) Economics*
- BA (Hons) Political Science*
- BA (Hons) Sociology*
- BA (Hons.) Liberal Arts
- B.Sc (Hons. with Research) Economics
- BA (Hons) Public Policy and Governance
- BA (Hons) Social Work

School of Languages

Department of Languages
- BA (Hons) English*
- BA (Hons) Japanese
- BA (Hons) French

School of Medical & Allied Sciences

Department of Pharmacy
- Bachelor of Pharmacy (Approved by Pharmacy Council of India) (NBA Accredited)

School of Allied Health Sciences

Department of Allied Health Sciences
- Bachelor of Physiotherapy
- Bachelor of Medical Lab Science
- Bachelor In Anaesthesia and Operation Theatre Technology
- Bachelor of Optometry
- Bachelor of Cardiovascular Technology
- Bachelor In Medical Radiology and Imaging Technology
- Bachelor of Emergency Medical Technology
- Bachelor of Respiratory Technology
- Bachelor of Science in Health Information Management
- B.Sc Yoga Therapy

School of Forensic Sciences

Department of Forensic Sciences
- B.Sc. (Hons.) Forensic Science*
- B.Sc. (Hons) Forensic Science with specialization in Questioned Documents and Fingerprints*
- B.Sc. (Hons) Forensic Science with specialization in Forensic Biology and Serology*
- B.Sc. (Hons) Forensic Science with specialization in Forensic Toxicology and Explosives*
- B.Sc. (Hons) Forensic Science with specialization in Cyber and Multimedia Forensics*
- B.Sc. (Hons) Forensic Science with specialization in Forensic Physics and Ballistics*
- Integrated B.Sc. and M.Sc. Forensic Science

School of Basic Sciences

Department of Physics
- B.Sc. (Hons.) Physics*
- B.Sc. (General) PCM*

Department of Chemistry & Sustainability
- B.Sc. (Hons) Chemistry*
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Department of Mathematics & Statistics
- B.Sc. (Hons) Mathematics*
- B.Sc. (Hons.) Statistics and Data Science*
- B.Sc. (Hons.) Mathematics with Specialization in Computational Mathematics*

School of Biosciences and Technology

Department of Biotechnology & Bioengineering
- B.Tech in Biotechnology
- B.Tech in Biomedical Engineering
- B.Tech Chemical and Biochemical Engineering
- B.Tech in Bioinformatics (Specialization in Artificial Intelligence)

Department of Life Sciences
- B.Sc. (General) ZBC*
- B.Sc. (Hons) Biomedical Science*
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Department of Food Technology
- B.Sc. Food Science and Dietetics*
- B.Tech in Food Technology
- B.Sc. (Hons.) Food Science and Technology*

Department of Biomedical Sciences
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School of Design

Department of Design
- Bachelor of Design (Fashion Design)
- Bachelor of Design In Interior and Spatial Design
- Bachelor of Design in Advertising, Graphics and Web Design
- Bachelor of Design in Communication Design
- Bachelor of Design in Product Design

School of Commerce

Department of Finance & Commerce
- B.Com. (Hons)*
- B.Com. (Hons) International Accounting and Finance with ACCA*
- B.Com (Hons) Applied Finance and Analytics*
- B.Com (Hons) Financial Markets*
- BBA Financial Investment Analysis*

School of Hospitality

Department of Hospitality
- Bachelor of Hotel Management
- B.Sc. Hotel Management*
- B.Sc. in Culinary Arts*
- BBA in Hospitality and Service Management

School of Nursing

Department of Nursing
- B.Sc. in Nursing (approved by Indian Nursing Council)

School of Education

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- B.A. B.Ed (Middle)
- B.Sc. B.Ed (Secondary)

School of Vocational Education

Department of Vocational Education
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- Bachelor of Vocation (Multimedia and Digital Product Design) in association with Ecole Intuit Lab
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Department of Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning (AIML)
- M.Tech in Computer Science Engineering- Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning
- M.Tech in Computer Science Engineering- Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning - (For Working Professionals Only)

Department of Artificial Intelligence and Data Science (AIDS)
- M.Tech in Computer Science Engineering- Data Science
- M.Tech in Computer Science Engineering- Data Science- (For Working Professionals Only)
- Post Graduate Diploma in Data Science with Artificial Intelligence

Department of Cyber Security (CyS)
- M.Tech in Computer Science Engineering- Cyber Security
- M.Tech in Computer Science Engineering- Cyber Security- (For Working Professionals Only)
- Post Graduate Diploma in Cyber Security with Artificial Intelligence

School of Computer Applications & Technology

Department of Computer Applications & Technology
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- M.Sc. in Data Science
- MCA
- MCA (Industry Oriented Specialization in Web Designing and Security)
- MCA (Industry Oriented Specialization in Cloud Computing)
- MCA (Industry Oriented Specialization in Computer Network and Cyber Security)
- MCA (Industry Oriented Specialization in Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning)
- MCA (Industry Oriented Specialization in Data Analytics)

School of Engineering

Department of Civil Engineering
- M.Tech in Geotechnical Engineering
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School of Aviation, Logistics & Tourism Management

Department of Aviation, Logistics & Tourism Management
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School of Skill Sciences & Entrepreneurship
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- MA in Economics
- MA in Political Science
- MA in Sociology
- MA Politics and International Relations
- M.A. in Public Policy
- M.Sc. Cognitive Sciences, Learning and Technology
- Master of Social Work
- Post Graduate Diploma in Counselling Psychology

School of Languages

Department of Languages
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- MA in English
- MA in French

School of Forensic Sciences

Department of Forensic Sciences
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- M.Sc. Forensic Science with specialization in Forensic Physics and Ballistics
- Post-Graduate Diploma in Questioned Documents and Fingerprints
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- Post-Graduate Diploma in Forensic Toxicology and Explosives
- Post-Graduate Diploma in Forensic Biology and Serology
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- M.Sc. Medical Biotechnology (Specialization in Bioinformatics
- M.Sc. Public Health Administration

School of Medical & Allied Sciences

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- Master of Pharmacy (Pharmacology) (Approved by Pharmacy Council of India)
- Master of Pharmacy (Regulatory Affairs) (Approved by Pharmacy Council of India)
- Master of Pharmacy (Pharmaceutical Analysis) (Approved by Pharmacy Council of India)
- MBA (Pharmaceutical Management)

School of Allied Health Sciences

Department of Allied Health Sciences
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- Master of Physiotherapy in Sports Sciences
- Master of Physiotherapy in Musculoskeletal Sciences
- Master of Physiotherapy in NeuroSciences
- Master of Physiotherapy in Obstetrics and Gynaecology Sciences
- Masters of Optometry
- M.Sc. in Cardiovascular Technology
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- M.Sc. in Medical Laboratory Technology (Medical Microbiology)
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- M.Sc. in Medical Laboratory Technology (Hematology and Transfusion Medicine)
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- M.Sc. (Yoga Therapy)
- Post Graduate Diploma in Medical Music Therapy

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- M.Sc. (Agriculture) Soil Science
- M.Sc. (Hort.) Fruit Science

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Department of Design
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- M. Design in Interaction Design
- M. Design in Design Research and Insights

School of Education

Department of Education
- B.Ed. (approved by National Council for Teacher Education)
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School of Law

Department of legal Studies
- Bachelor of Law (LLB) (Hons) approved by Bar Council of India
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- Master of Law (LLM) in Criminal Law and Criminal Justice
- Master of Law (LLM) in Environmental Law
- Master of Law (LLM) in Intellectual Property Law
- Master of Law (LLM) in Law and Emerging Technology

School of Media & Communication Studies

Department of Mass Communication
- M.A in Journalism and Mass Communication
- M.A in Journalism and Mass Communication (In association with India Today Media Institute)

School of Commerce

Department of Finance & Commerce
- M.Com
- Master of Finance and Control
- MBA in Financial Management

School of Hospitality

Department of Hospitality
- Masters in Hospitality Management
- Masters in Culinary Management & Food Entrepreneurship
- MBA Hospitality and Service Management

Diploma Programs

School of Medical & Allied Sciences

Department of Pharmacy
- Diploma in pharmacy (D.Pharm) (Approved by Pharmacy Council of India)

School of Allied Health Sciences
- Diploma in Advanced Music Therapy

University Polytechnic

Department of Galgotias Polytechnic
- Diploma in Computer Science and Engineering
- Diploma in Computer Science and Engineering (Network Essentials)
- Diploma in Computer Science and Engineering (Web Designing)
- Diploma in Computer Science and Engineering (Cloud Computing and IT Infrastructure)
- Diploma in Computer Science and Engineering (Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning)
- Diploma in Computer Science and Engineering (Data Analytics)
- Diploma in Electrical Engineering
- Diploma in Electrical Engineering (Electric Vehicle)
- Diploma in Electrical Engineering (Renewable Energy)
- Diploma in Electronics and Communication Engineering
- Diploma in Mechanical Engineering
- Diploma in Mechanical Engineering (Electric Vehicle)
- Diploma in IC Manufacturing
- Diploma in Civil Engineering

Certificate Programs

School of Languages

Department of Languages
- Certificate in Japanese
- Certificate in French

School of Forensic Sciences

Department of Forensic Sciences
- Certificate course in Social Media Crimes
- Certificate course in Advanced crime scene management
- Certificate course in Forensic photography
- Certificate course in Graphology and personality profiling

School of Media & Communication Studies

Department of Mass Communication
- Certificate Course in Art of Anchoring & Presentation (In association with India Today Media Institute)
- Certificate Course in Events Management (In association with India Today Media Institute)
- Certificate Course in Data Journalism (In association with India Today Media Institute)
- Certificate Course in Media Graphics and Visualization (In association with India Today Media Institute)
- Certificate Course in Integrated Marketing Communication (In association with India Today Media Institute)
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